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Summary record of the 14th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 21 October 2004, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. Calderón (Vice-Chairman) ..... (Ecuador)
Later: Mr. Swe (Chairman) ..... (Myanmar)

Contents

Agenda item 78: Questions relating to information (*continued*)*

Agenda item 109: Programme planning (*continued*)*

* Items which the Committee has decided to consider together.

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In the absence of Mr. Swe (Myanmar), Mr. Calderón (Ecuador), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.25 p.m.

Agenda item 78: Questions relating to information (*continued*) (A/59/21 and A/59/221 and Corr.1)

Agenda item 109: Programme planning (*continued*) (A/59/6 (Programme 23: Public information) and A/59/16, chap. II, sect. C, prog. 23)

Action on draft proposals contained in the report of the Committee on Information (A/59/21)

1. **Ms. Baaziz** (Algeria) said that, although information and communication technology (ICT) was a useful tool for human development and had helped bring the peoples of the world closer together, it had also created inequalities. The United Nations must ensure that all countries had equal access to the benefits of ICT in order to close the digital divide between the developed and developing countries. The Department of Public Information (DPI) should concentrate on communication strategies which brought the Organization closer to the people of the world and contributed to its major goals, in particular with regard to poverty, sustainable development, HIV/AIDS, dialogue between civilizations and cultures and the needs of the African countries.

2. The United Nations web site was a great success, and she welcomed progress made in the use of all official languages; the quality of information and service provided by the News Centre continued to improve. It was essential all six official languages should receive equal treatment in the Organization's web services as well as with regard to documentation. She therefore welcomed the increased use of all six languages in United Nations radio broadcasts, given that radio was the most effective means of communication in isolated areas and in the developing countries in particular.

3. The Organization's decolonization activities were important for the realization of the goals of the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism. She welcomed the efforts exerted by the Department in that regard and expressed the hope that they would help the last of the colonial peoples to exercise their right to self-determination.

4. Turning to the issue of rationalization of the network of United Nations information centres, she said that it was too early to follow up the creation of the Western European hub with the establishment of other regional information centres. The United Nations information centres were a valuable resource in the developing countries, which lacked technological resources. Any regrouping of such centres must be dealt with on a case-by-case basis and in consultation with the host countries concerned.

5. **Mr. Awad** (Egypt) said that his delegation commended DPI for undertaking reforms with a view to confronting current challenges. Having participated in the drafting of the resolutions before the Committee, his delegation believed that information policy should be adapted to reflect the evolving needs of Member States. Such a policy must promote the dissemination of news about the United Nations throughout the world, with emphasis on multilingualism and access in all six official languages, as well as on the promotion of libraries and information centres, so as to strengthen dialogue between cultures and civilizations. With a view to consolidating the peace process, the Department should continue its activities to increase public awareness with regard to peace and stability in the Middle East; it should offer ample, objective messages that would expose the realities on the ground and support the aspirations of Arab peoples living under the yoke of foreign occupation. The financial resources available to the Department were far from sufficient to fund a comprehensive information policy: that problem must be solved. The principles of the Millennium Declaration should be incorporated into the work programme of the Department.

6. The establishment of regional United Nations information centres was a source of discord between the developing and developed countries. In considering the two draft resolutions, it was essential for delegations to attempt to narrow those differences and to agree on a process for the regionalization of information centres that was in keeping with the mandates of the General Assembly. The first phase, which had involved the creation of a regional centre in Western Europe, was now complete, and the next phase must begin. It should entail devoting the resources released by closing down nine European centres to information activities in the developing countries.

7. **Mr. Nur Jazlan Mohamed** (Malaysia) said he hoped that the Department's new organizational

structure and mission would enhance its abilities to inform the world of the diverse functions of the United Nations in order to restore public confidence in and support for the Organization. Despite considerable financial and staffing restraints, the Department had made a good start in encouraging the development of an information culture around the world. For the many people who lacked food, water, decent shelter, education and health care, the Internet was a distant dream. Malaysia therefore believed that measures should and could be taken to develop partnerships between developed and developing countries in research, technology transfer, and the manufacturing and marketing of information technology products and services, with a view to bridging the digital divide.

8. Malaysia had implemented a rural Internet programme, to provide infrastructure, services and opportunities to rural areas, including rural Internet centres and a rural portal. In particular, it had successfully established a programme of mobile Internet units to reach less privileged areas and a nationwide Internet school programme. It welcomed the dissemination of reports on the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council held in June 2004, and the coverage given to the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit-Developing Countries, held in Almaty in August 2003, which had highlighted the challenges faced by landlocked developing countries. It was proud to have contributed to the Department's activities to promote the International Year of Fresh Water, by providing media coverage on progress made in achieving the water target.

9. Although his delegation welcomed the range of activities that the Department had undertaken to enhance United Nations activities in support of sustainable development in Africa, it believed that a long-term and action-oriented international strategy was necessary to resolve the problems there. It congratulated the Department on the success of the International Media Seminar on Peace in the Middle East. DPI should continue to play an important role in informing the public of the tragic suffering of the Palestinian people and was to be commended for providing training programmes to members of the Palestinian communication media.

10. His delegation fully subscribed to the views expressed by the Group of 77 and China with respect to the restructuring of information centres, and was encouraged by cooperation between the Department and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in rationalizing the information centre network. It believed that a balanced and equitable use of the six official languages, especially on the web site, was essential, and welcomed the Department's partnership with the academic community throughout the world in translating materials for that purpose. Finally, he said that Malaysia was confident that the newly reformed Department would become a more effective vehicle for communication between the United Nations and the world.

11. **Mr. Nepal** (Nepal) noted with appreciation that the Department had been contributing immensely to the field of communications, despite resource constraints, and had played a laudable role at the World Summit on the Information Society, held in Geneva in 2003. The Department had a special role in improving access to information in developing countries, especially the least developed among them, which were utterly lacking in modern communication means; the Department should therefore use the radio and print media in reaching out to them. It should also produce more language-specific programmes for achieving the targeted objectives.

12. United Nations information centres in resource-strapped countries deserved to be strengthened in order to better serve the people who most needed them. His delegation agreed with many others that centres in developing countries should not be merged. It strongly urged the strengthening of the Kathmandu Information Centre, which needed resources in order to carry out training in the use of United Nations services for personnel from the communication media, non-governmental organizations, academia and libraries and for interested individuals. In that regard, it welcomed the Department's efforts to undertake a review of United Nations libraries. However, since libraries in the developing world were not yet ready to receive electronic deposits, the Department should continue to provide them with hard copies. Workshops, such as the one held in Pretoria in the summer of 2003 should be conducted in other regions, on a rotational, or perhaps regular basis, to familiarize librarians and other personnel with the United Nations documentation system.

13. **Mr. Mansour** (Yemen) said that his delegation commended the Department for the development of library and information networks and for its effort to

reach a worldwide public and foster dialogue between cultures. It congratulated the Under-Secretary-General on the progress achieved by the Department, in particular the establishment of contacts with the Arab world, and it welcomed the endeavours to make the web site accessible in all six official languages and to enhance information services for developing countries.

14. **Mr. Sinaga** (Indonesia), endorsing the organization of the work of DPI into four main subprogrammes, said that, insofar as the United Nations information centres were concerned, any restructuring of the network should be on a case-by-case basis and should not be detrimental to the interests of the developing countries, where the presence of information centres often served as a catalyst to development. Indonesia was concerned over the proposed regionalization of the information centres, especially because it was too early to evaluate the effectiveness of the first such experiment, the Western European hub, and because there was a gap between Europe and the other regions, in terms of ICT and infrastructure. The Organization needed to have a comprehensive picture before embarking on the next stage of regionalization. A different cause for concern was that certain core functions of the information centres could not be carried out because of lack of funding.

15. His delegation appreciated the improved delivery of services by DPI. The United Nations web site had become the prime tool for reaching target audiences in the media, non-governmental organizations, academia and the general public, including persons with disabilities. There were limitations, however, in terms of both language and technology, making the news provided inaccessible to some developing societies. It was critical to ensure the ability of all peoples to communicate and also to guarantee a diversity of sources of information and free access to information. The United Nations must redouble its efforts to bridge the communication, information and digital divide so that all could reap the benefits of globalization.

16. **Mr. Zhang** Yishan (China) welcomed the spirit of rigorous reform and innovation shown by DPI in recent years and said that his delegation attached great importance to the work of the Committee on Information, whose role in formulating and reviewing the Organization's public information policies should be strengthened.

17. As the United Nations approached its sixtieth anniversary, it became increasingly important to promote the ideals of the Charter of the United Nations and multilateralism. Despite the challenges and difficulties encountered, the cause of maintaining world peace and stability and promoting the common development of mankind could not be separated from multilateralism and a powerful United Nations. The international reference in the field of international relations was the Charter of the United Nations, which enshrined principles such as respect for State sovereignty and non-interference, peaceful settlement of disputes and strengthening of international cooperation. The sixtieth anniversary of the Organization would provide an opportune moment to mobilize the peoples of the world to promote the spirit of the Charter of the United Nations and call on countries to reaffirm their commitments to the Organization and to multilateralism.

18. The Organization must focus on development and guiding public opinion, avoiding the tendency within the Organization itself and in the media and public opinion to highlight political rather than economic issues. Violence and disaster, after all, made better headlines than the fight against poverty, hunger or environmental degradation. He therefore appreciated the efforts of DPI to publicize issues such as HIV/AIDS, the digital divide, the needs of African countries and the Millennium Development Goals. The Department and Member States must promote the Goals to the general public in a user-friendly manner and encourage the media to focus on the well-being of the many developing countries, thereby reinvigorating the implementation process.

19. The Organization must also continue to promote dialogue between civilizations and language parity. His delegation supported the Department of Public Information in its efforts to use print, radio, television and the Internet to present accurate and balanced information on the United Nations system and to advocate dialogue, tolerance and coexistence among civilizations. That work was of real significance in the current world situation. The multilingual capacity of the United Nations web site and broadcasts should be reinforced and he noted that the Chinese web site had recently registered the highest growth in use. Adequate financial and human resources must be made available so that all official languages were on a truly equal footing. As for the rationalization of the network of

United Nations information centres, he advocated a step-by-step approach based on close consultations with the Member States concerned and taking into account the ICT gap between developed and developing countries.

20. His delegation had always supported the Organization's information programmes and had progressively expanded its cooperation with the Organization in that regard. There were also increased contacts between United Nations radio and television and Chinese media. His Government would continue to support the United Nations in its information work and strive to establish a just international information and communication order, in pursuit of the purposes and objectives of the United Nations.

21. **Mr. López** (Cuba) said that the communication and information divide between developed and developing countries was growing daily, despite efforts to bring technological advances to all parts of the world. Indeed, the greater the technological advance, the greater the divide. While the developed world was enjoying the Internet boom, the countries of the South were held back by persisting poverty, disease and conflicts. Building on the World Summit on the Information Society, it was necessary to provide secure funding to ensure the access of the developing countries to information technology.

22. There was a similar imbalance in the dissemination of information. The information emanating from the developed world distorted or disregarded news and developments in the developing world, and even used news as a political distraction. A new world information and communication order was even more necessary than before. The United Nations information centres should take the lead in disseminating fair and balanced news.

23. There could not be a single rationalization model suitable for all the United Nations information centres because of significant regional differences in communication capability. The use of the radio, for instance, was essential in the countries of the South, where many people were still illiterate. The printed press was also important. The experience of the Regional Centre in Western Europe was not automatically applicable.

24. His delegation endorsed the strategy of publicizing the crucial work and decisions of the General Assembly, the most universal and representative body in the United Nations. It was imperative to inform the world about the impact it was having.

25. Once again, his delegation had to speak out in the Committee about the aggression the United States was committing against Cuba over radio and television. More than 2,000 hours of radio and television broadcasting of anything but balanced and objective programming were currently being aimed at Cuba each week. Seventeen of the stations were run by organizations linked to known terrorists based and operating in United States territory with the full consent of the Government, which actually owned two of the stations and allocated $35 million annually to them. Such broadcasts infringed Cuba's sovereignty and flagrantly violated International Telecommunication Union regulations. The illegal anti-Cuban broadcasting financed and encouraged by the United States painted a false picture of the situation in the country, encouraged illegal immigration fraught with danger, incited to civil disobedience, violence and terrorism in defiance of the rule of law. Various United Nations resolutions had condemned the exploitation of information for criminal or terrorist purposes, and it was illegal to use information to subvert the domestic order of another country. Still, the United States persisted, and it had refined the electronic techniques used in its obsessive radio assault. Fortunately, however, Cuban technicians had used their ingenuity to jam the television transmission and a good proportion of the radio broadcasts. Above all, the United States Administration had come up against determined opposition to that type of aggression by the entire Cuban people, who had the sovereign right to choose the type of information it wished to receive.

26. **Mr. Al-Zayani** (Bahrain) said that freedom of expression was one of the linchpins of the democratic approach and was a basic human right of all people. Bahrain, believing in the freedom and equality of the individual, guaranteed freedom of expression and freedom of the press, allowing every citizen to express opinions by any means. It was indispensable that societies should learn about issues of concern to them through freedom of research, publications and the press, within the limits of the law. By drawing attention to important issues on World Press Freedom Day and featuring development issues and sustainable development achievements, the Department was able to communicate the activities and concerns of the

international community to the public, explaining the role of the United Nations and the impact it had.

27. If information was to serve its purpose, the digital divide must be bridged by harnessing the huge advances in ICT, as indicated in the Millennium Declaration, and earlier in General Assembly resolution 34/182, which urged universal access to ICT and a new information and communication order guaranteeing fairness of information, wider dissemination and greater balance. In the meantime, the best approach was for the international community to work concertedly to develop information and communication infrastructures, capacities and human resources in the developing countries, many of which lacked the modern sophisticated technology which was so much more effective than conventional means in ensuring a free flow of information.

28. The regionalization of United Nations information centres into hubs would not be the best way to bring the benefits of information to the target audiences of the centres. Hopes in developing countries were pinned on the centres to motivate their people and raise their awareness. The information centres were effective sources of knowledge and must be continually revitalized and provided with the informational materials needed. DPI should not resign itself to closing centres or merging them unless the host country was in agreement.

29. DPI deserved support in its work. It should continue to publicize the themes mandated by the General Assembly, particularly the question of Palestine.

30. **Ms. Mujuma** (United Republic of Tanzania), welcomed the progress made in the restructuring of DPI, which should remain a priority, and said that her Government recognized the importance of rationalizing the network of United Nations information centres while at the same time strengthening the United Nations information system in the developing countries. It had appreciated the assurance that the Member States concerned would always be consulted on a case-by-case basis. She assured the Department of her Government's full cooperation during consultations on the information centre in her country.

31. It was heartening to note that the Department had recognized the discrepancy between what people should know and what many media covering the work of the United Nations had deliberately chosen to disseminate. Her delegation urged the Department to encourage the media it collaborated with to cover the overlooked issues that affected so many of the world's people, such as poverty, hunger, disease and environmental degradation. Going beyond its "Ten Stories" project, the Department should instil a public conscience and elicit political action and a collective response. It might also focus from time to time on topical themes drawn from the United Nations agenda, in order to educate the public about the work of the Organization and get the citizens of the world actively involved in it.

32. The Department was to be commended for its creative use of new developments in information technology. As democratic reforms were consolidated in many countries, the Department should use every opportunity to work with their newly free media. Its outreach activities would benefit from partnerships with credible local media and in the process costs would probably be reduced. Similarly, the Department should work closely with other parts of civil society, especially youth organizations, which had the potential to be the most enthusiastic constituencies for the United Nations in Member States.

33. While it was encouraging to see that the Department itself was moving in the right direction, she feared that the General Assembly's decision to reduce the operational budget for United Nations information centres would affect the Department's ability to fulfil its mandate.

34. **Mr. Adjagba** (Togo) expressed his delegation's support for the revitalization of the Department of Information. A communication strategy should be aimed not only at reaching a wider public but also at helping to realize the goals and objectives set out in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the medium-term plan, including poverty eradication, HIV/AIDS, dialogue between civilizations and cultures, sustainable development and the specific needs of African countries. His delegation urged the Department to continue giving priority to issues of special interest to developing countries.

35. Stressing the imperative necessity of maintaining the United Nations information centres in developing countries, he said that the information centre based in Togo also serviced Benin and served as a databank for many university students preparing their senior papers. The information centre in Lomé also received many

requests from elementary and high schools for information on United Nations topics, and its library was used frequently by scholars from both Benin and Togo.

36. As information and the press were inextricably linked, his delegation commended the Department for its observance of World Press Freedom Day in May and for pursuing its work in that area at a time when freedom of the press remained at risk. In that connection, he said that Togo, aware of the importance of information to the democratic process and the rule of law, had recently introduced a new press code. One of the most liberal in Africa, the Togolese Press and Communication Code gave journalists complete freedom of expression without their having to seek authorization. As a result, the Togolese press was one of the most flourishing and active. A small country of nearly 5 million inhabitants, Togo had nearly 200 newspapers, 40 of which were published on a regular basis. Its nearly 60 radio stations and 7 television stations broadcast their programmes freely, and there was no censorship of subject matter. Moreover local correspondents of the major international radio networks and press agencies in Togo were able to carry out their work without any constraints, even when their coverage of national current events was biased.

37. In conclusion, his delegation welcomed the operation of the United Nations News Centre in all six official languages and the improvements already introduced in DPI.

38. **Mr. Martins** (Angola) hailed the significant progress made by DPI in reaching out to the people of the world, including through its web site, which should be developed even further. It also commended the Department for making the United Nations News Centre available in the six official languages and pledged to give its continued support to public information activities.

39. Resource constraints hampered the efforts of developing countries to maintain broad, democratic and balanced information services. In the polarization between the connected and the isolated, the developing countries were cut off from the latest ICT. His delegation urged DPI to assist developing countries in building their technology systems. In that connection, it looked forward to the second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society, to be held in Tunis in November 2005.

40. Angola supported the decision by DPI to inform the general public about the United Nations peacekeeping activities. At the national level, Angola was making every effort to mobilize all its available resources to develop its ICT in line with the goals and objectives set out in the Millennium Declaration. It urged the Department to promote priority development issues, such as poverty eradication, sustainable development, HIV/AIDS control, dialogue among civilizations and cultures and the prevention and combat of terrorism.

41. His delegation attached great importance to the role of the United Nations information centres in developing countries. The draft resolution the Committee was about to adopt referred once again to the offer made by his Government — and discussed during the twenty-sixth session of the Committee on Information — to host an information centre that would serve the needs of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries, in particular the African Portuguese-speaking countries.

42. Freedom of expression was a pillar of all democratic societies, and yet too many journalists still faced tremendous challenges in carrying out their work. Particularly with the advent of peace in Angola two years earlier, the number of newspapers, radios and other means of communication had proliferated and new press legislation was currently being finalized. Despite that improvement, however, much remained to be done. His Government would continue to strive to expand access to information and guarantee freedom of expression to the Angolan population.

43. **Mr. da Costa Moniz** (Cape Verde) expressed his full support for the statement made by the representative of Angola and said that the widening ICT gap between the developed and developing worlds was cause for concern. In many developing countries the traditional media, such as radio, continued to play an important role owing to the lack of the infrastructure and resources necessary to benefit from ICT.

44. He expressed appreciation for the work of the Portuguese language unit of the United Nations Radio, which not only broadcast in Portuguese, but also ran the Portuguese web page, providing information about the Organization's activities to the 250 million citizens of the Portuguese-speaking countries. It was important that Portuguese-language services should be

maintained and strengthened, and he welcomed the generous offer by the Government of Angola to host the regional information centre for the African Portuguese-speaking countries, including the construction of a building to accommodate the centre.

45. His delegation continued to support the ongoing process of reforms aimed at increasing the efficiency and improving the quality and flow of United Nations public information and communication activities. Those efforts would contribute to reducing the information divide between developed and developing countries.

46. *Mr. Swe (Myanmar), Chairman, took the Chair.*

47. **Mr. Tharoor** (Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information), replying to questions by the representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United Arab Emirates, said that the Department was promoting dialogue between civilizations through its "Unlearning Intolerance" series. The next seminar in the series, "Confronting Islamaphobia: education for tolerance and understanding" was scheduled for 7 December. In addition, the United Nations information centres in Harare. Moscow and Sydney were organizing special local-level events on the theme of the dialogue.

48. Rationalization of the United Nations information centres was intended to enhance their effectiveness notwithstanding severe, and sometimes crippling, budgetary constraints. The plain fact was that the General Assembly had created a large number of information centres and then deprived them of the funding they needed. Regional hubs, however, would be unable to carry out their work without the proper funding. He would do his best to manage those contradictions and to allocate the limited resources available to his Department in the most effective manner. He had already indicated his intention to submit a comprehensive review of the performance of the regional United Nations Information Centre in Brussels to the Committee on Information in 2005.

49. He was pleased that so many delegations attached importance to the United Nations information centres as the voice of the United Nations worldwide and was grateful for the financial and other support they provided. In particular, he expressed appreciation to the Government of Japan for increasing its annual contribution to the United Nations Information Centre in Tokyo by 40 per cent, to the Government of Kuwait for its generous support in building a United Nations House and to the Government of Angola for its offer of free premises for a hub to serve the Portuguese-speaking community.

50. He had taken note of the continuing concern of the States members of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) at the outposting of one information officer in Kingston to support information outreach to audiences in that part of the Caribbean. The issue would be addressed in the context of the rationalization of the United Nations information centre network in the region and through bilateral discussions.

51. As for bridging the digital divide, he said that, while DPI was not an operational agency mandated to assist developing countries with ICT, it was actively promoting and supporting the World Summit on the Information Society. Through a task force created under the United Nations Communications Group, the Department was working closely with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the United Nations Information and Communication Technology Task Force to improve access to ICT for development. In the first phase of the World Summit on the Information Society, the Department had been very active in helping ITU to obtain significant media coverage for the event. He wished to assure the representatives of the United States of America, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Trinidad and Tobago (on behalf of CARICOM) that the Department would remain very actively involved in the second phase of the Summit in Tunis as well and would be preparing another comprehensive information strategy to that end.

52. The Department was fully committed to keeping the international spotlight on Africa. It devoted at least 20 per cent of its activities in any given month to African issues. In addition, its Africa Section was working hard to ensure that articles on African issues appeared in major newspapers, not only in Africa but also in Asia and Europe. It would also be giving visibility to the Asia-Africa Trade and Investment Conference of the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD), to be held in November.

53. He wished to assure the representatives of Bangladesh and Ukraine that the Department had significantly increased its cooperation with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, to which it

had submitted a draft communication strategy on addressing the so-called "information gap". It had also worked closely with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to develop specific strategies in, for example, Sierra Leone. The Department was also working with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations on a system-wide strategy for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration. It had offered two training workshops in Italy and Switzerland in October, and its communication strategy on disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, developed during a workshop in Dakar in 2003, had been incorporated in a pending policy document for use by 15 United Nations agencies and departments.

54. He was pleased that a number of speakers, including the representatives of Myanmar, the Netherlands and the United States, had endorsed the strategy to revitalize the Dag Hammarskjöld Library. Under the restructuring plan, the processing aspects of the Library's work would be streamlined, within the framework of the recommendations made in the recent report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services, with a view to assisting the Secretariat and supporting the United Nations information centres more effectively. The Library would intensify its work on the Official Document System (ODS) and improve its web site and training events. At the same time, it would explore alternative methods of providing information, including the use of CD-ROMs to make documents and information more easily accessible to depository libraries and the world at large. A recent Department workshop for depository libraries held in Africa had demonstrated the need for access to electronic information as well as the continuing need for a selection of printed materials while online infrastructure was set up.

55. In response to the queries by the representatives of the United Arab Emirates and the Syrian Arab Republic, he said that the Department was fully committed to promoting the rights of the Palestinian people. The annual training programme for Palestinian media practitioners, which was in its ninth year, now included a week-long session in Geneva at the headquarters of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. The 2004 session of the training programme was scheduled to begin the following week; 10 Palestinian journalists had been invited to participate. Moreover, the Department's annual media seminar had been revamped and now served as an annual forum for policy makers, experts and media professionals from the Occupied Palestinian Territory and Israel, as well as from other parts of the world. The Department's 2004 Reham Al-Farra Memorial Journalists' Fellowship Programme was an annual training programme for journalists from developing countries, including journalists from Iraq and several other Muslim countries. The Department had also significantly expanded its outreach services to the media in the Middle East and other Arab regions.

56. Aware of the continuing importance of traditional means of communication, especially radio, in the developing world, the Department was working vigorously to establish new partnerships with local, provincial, national and regional broadcasters around the world. In the past six months it had increased those partnerships to 160, including 12 new ones, the majority of them in developing countries. The feedback from its radio partners had been very positive. Earlier in the year, he had received a letter from the Director of Journalism at Radio Bandeirantes de São Paulo, (Brazil), expressing gratitude for the relationship between his network, comprising 60 broadcast stations, and the Portuguese-language unit of United Nations Radio. The Department had also heard from the Voice of America, Radio France Internationale and Deutsche Welle and from the United Nations Office in Belarus on its broadcast of the Organization's thousandth Russian-language programme. The United Nations Day concert on 25 October would be broadcast live to the people of China over Radio Beijing and syndicated to 21 stations in China covering a population of 400 million. Recently, he had sent a recorded message to Radio Beijing for the launching of its English channel in preparation for the 2008 Olympics. Finally, in June, United Nations Radio had launched a new weekly programme entitled "UN and Africa" which provided coverage of current-affairs-related stories on the work of the United Nations in Africa.

57. Making ODS accessible to the public in all six official languages did much to enhance multilingualism in the Department's activities. In response to the representatives of the Syrian Arab Republic and the United Arab Emirates, he said that every effort was being made to guarantee the dissemination of information products in Arabic, including over the radio, on video and on the web site, and that numerous publications were already available in Arabic. The Department could not assume the heavy cost of

translation and interpretation of all its daily press releases into Arabic without cutting back on other activities mandated by the General Assembly; however, it had worked closely with the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management in the past year to ensure that Arabic versions of major statements by the Secretary-General and other eminent personalities were distributed to the Arab media. In response to the question by the representative of Morocco, he said that every effort was being made to ensure coordination of the two working languages, French and English, in meeting coverage.

58. Resources were at the heart of the Department's efforts to achieve genuine multilingualism. In response to the statement by the representative of Qatar on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, he said that the Department was striving to redeploy more posts to that end but that, in the absence of increased resources or clear guidelines by Member States on which activities to eliminate in order to focus on parity, progress was slow, even with the many innovations to the web, including online and bidirectional scripts. Replying to the representative of the Republic of Korea, he announced that guided tours at Headquarters were given in Korean and a number of other non-official languages, including German, Hebrew, Italian, Japanese, Portuguese, Swedish, Hindi and several African languages. Through partnerships with national and regional broadcasters, United Nations Radio and Television were strengthening their programming in non-official languages. He looked forward to discussions on the proposals by the representatives of the Republic of Korea and the United States to sacrifice absolute parity in favour of allocating more resources to the most heavily visited sites. Lastly, the praise by the representative of the Russian Federation of the Department's partnerships, including its NGO section, were heartening. The primary task of its Outreach Division was to foster such partnerships while conserving scarce budgetary resources. That would be particularly important in the lead-up to the sixtieth anniversary of the United Nations.

59. **The Chairman** thanked the Under-Secretary-General for his informative statement. The number of speakers on the agenda item testified to the Committee's interest in the excellent work of the Under-Secretary-General and his team.

60. **Mr. Marsh** (United States of America), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, referred to the statement made by the representative of Cuba and said that the purpose of the Committee was to deal with the issue of information, not to disseminate misinformation. His Government took very seriously its obligations as a member of ITU, including the avoidance of harmful interference with the services of other nations. It was regrettable, however, that for 45 years the Cuban people had been denied their fundamental rights — to choose their representatives, to express their opinions freely without fear of reprisal and to meet and organize freely — by a system of agents and informers whose purpose was to suppress dissent and impose an ideology of conformity.

61. In March 2003 the Castro regime had cracked down on its peaceful opposition for exercising the right to freedom of expression and opinion as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; 75 individuals had been convicted by kangaroo courts and sentenced to an average of 20 years imprisonment simply for crimes such as writing for foreign web sites, organizing independent libraries, and collecting signatures for a petition calling for a referendum on basic rights. Those individuals — teachers, economists, medical doctors and human rights workers, some of whom were elderly or ill — had already spent some 19 months in prison in what had been described by a personal representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights as very difficult conditions.

62. The Castro government so feared outside contacts with ordinary people that it had recently expelled three Europeans, members of their respective countries' parliaments, simply for wishing to meet with the peaceful and democratic opposition. That was the latest example of the Castro government's obsession with denying peaceful and freedom-loving Cubans access to the outside world. The Castro government's continued opposition to TV and Radio Martí and its imprisonment of prisoners of conscience, such as the poet Raúl Rivero Castañeda, who in 2004 had been awarded the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization World Press Freedom Prize, constituted further proof of the Cuban Government's fear of the consequences if Cubans were allowed access to uncensored information from the rest of the world, a right to which all people were entitled. Not only did the Castro regime deny the people their human rights and fundamental freedoms, but it also

betrayed them politically, failed them economically and wronged them by its unrelenting injustice.

63. **Mr. Kanafi** (Israel), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, noted that a small number of delegations had called on DPI to highlight the suffering of the Palestinians. He recalled that a special information programme on the question of Palestine already existed. The activities of that programme cost the Organization more than US$ 5 million biennially, which was more than certain States paid in contributions to the regular budget of the Organization. The Israeli-Arab conflict was the only conflict in the world which had a special information programme, which, moreover, stressed only one side of the conflict.

64. It was legitimate to ask how rational such a wasteful policy was at a time when there were no funds to tell other, more pressing, stories. He invited delegations to consider whether it was right that one topic should overshadow all others and whether such a policy might not have potentially tragic implications.

65. **Mr. López** (Cuba), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that actions directed against Cuba by the United States constituted acts of aggression which were in violation of international law. The Cuban people were educated and literate, with a deep culture, who had access to international media, including United Nations broadcasts. They did not need to be fed disinformation by the United States. Cuba had always told the truth to its people and to the international community, including about the Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba sponsored by the Central Intelligence Agency.

66. He was not attempting to politicize the meetings of the Committee but was simply trying to denounce what was truly an act of aggression. The so-called prisoners of conscience were mercenaries who had been convicted, not for their ideas, but because they had violated Cuban law and were in the service of a foreign Power.

Draft resolution A: Information in the service of humanity (A/59/21, chap. IV, para. 53)

Draft resolution B: United Nations public information policies and activities (A/59/21, chap. IV, para. 53)

Draft decision: Increase in the membership of the Committee on Information (A/59/21, chap. IV, para. 53)

67. **The Chairman** recalled that the Committee on Information had adopted the two draft resolutions and the draft decision by consensus. He had been informed by the Secretariat that the two draft resolutions and the draft decision had no programme budget implications. It was his understanding that there was general agreement in the Committee to take a decision on the three proposals jointly. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee agreed to take action on the two draft resolutions and the draft decision jointly.

68. *It was so decided.*

69. *Draft resolutions A and B and a draft decision, as contained in paragraph 53 of the report of the Committee on Information (A/59/21), were adopted without a vote.*

70. **The Chairman** announced that the Committee had thus concluded its consideration of agenda item 78.

The meeting rose at 5.40 p.m.

United Nations A/C.4/59/SR.15

General Assembly
Fifty-ninth session
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Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

Summary record of the 15th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 25 October 2004, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Swe ..... (Myanmar)

Contents

Agenda item 77: Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects

Agenda item 109: Programme planning (*continued*)

Programme 23 of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2006-2007

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04-56924 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.25 a.m.

Agenda item 77: Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects

1. **The Chairman** recalled that in its resolution 54/81 of 6 December 1999 the General Assembly had decided to keep the present item open during its fifty-fourth session. That had been the first time that the Special Political and Decolonization Committee had not concluded consideration of the peacekeeping item during the usual September-to-December period set aside for consideration of the agenda items assigned to the Main Committees. It had subsequently taken up the report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations in May 2000.

2. Since then, the Assembly had continued to consider the item twice in the course of each session. Thus, at its preceding session the Fourth Committee had considered the peacekeeping item in October 2003 and again in June 2004, when it had taken up, among other matters, the report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (A/58/19), including its proposals, recommendations and conclusions.

3. It should also be noted that in 2003, in accordance with the decision contained in document A/54/87, which had subsequently been endorsed by the Assembly, the Committee had considered the item from 15 to 20 October and had held an interactive dialogue with the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations and his colleagues.

4. Given the vital importance of peacekeeping operations for all the Member States and the significant developments in the field since the Committee's preceding session, he proposed to invite the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations to provide information on the current trends and prospects in peacekeeping.

5. **Mr. Guéhenno** (Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations) said that the peacekeeping work of the United Nations was again at a crossroads and that the Committee's current session offered a fine opportunity for discussing the way ahead. Four years earlier the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) had also stood at a historic crossroads. That had been the start of the process of implementing the recommendations contained in the Brahimi report, which had marked a milestone in the effort to ensure that the lessons of the 1990s and the future challenges facing the Department were addressed. Much work had been done in 2001 to strengthen the Department's staff, as a result of which it had secured the human resources needed for proper support of its field missions. Attention had been focused in 2002 on the problems of rapid deployment. The strategic deployment stocks and pre-mandate commitment authority had come into existence. Without those significant innovations the Department would not have been able to deploy the new missions over the past year. Closer attention had also been given to the question of supporting the rule of law in the context of the peacekeeping efforts. Real progress had been made in that area as well, expressed in the formulation of a common vision of the way forward.

6. Coordination between DPKO and regional organizations had been stepped up in 2003. The fruits of those efforts could be seen in the Joint Declaration of the United Nations and the European Union and in the continuing cooperation between DPKO and the African Union. The Department had also engaged in a vigorous discussion of gender issues. That very week it was to launch a gender resource package for peacekeeping and other field personnel. From the Department's standpoint much had been achieved over the past four years.

7. In August 2005 it would be five years since the launch of the Brahimi process. That milestone should understandably prompt reflection on some fundamental questions. To what degree had peacekeeping changed since then? What would the next five years hold for United Nations peacekeepers and what might be the implications for the approach taken by the United Nations system, DPKO in particular, in developing appropriate preventive measures?

8. Those were the big questions which the Secretariat wished to begin discussing with the Member States, but it was just as important for the Member States to begin discussing them with one another in the lead-up to the summit meeting to be held in September 2005. The report of the High-Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change, which was about to be issued, would certainly contribute significantly to that discussion. Without pre-empting the Panel's conclusions or the reaction of the Secretary-General and the Member States to them, he would use the present opportunity to inject into the dialogue certain

trends and realities which seemed to him to be dominating the peacekeeping terrain.

9. First, the present peacekeeping demands throughout the world exceeded the capacity of the United Nations or of any other organization. From the United Nations perspective, the fact that a growing number of international organizations and actors were engaging in post-conflict work was very welcome. Regional and subregional organizations should likewise welcome investment in the United Nations capacity for peacekeeping. The fact that the Department was currently conducting a total of 17 operations, with more potentially on the horizon, was ample confirmation of the indispensability of United Nations peacekeeping. The universality of the United Nations continued to confer a unique legitimacy on its peacekeepers, who had built up considerable experience and expertise over decades of hard work.

10. Second, if the current demand for United Nations peacekeeping remained roughly constant over the next five years, the Organization would be faced with a serious resource deficit in the field. Serious attention must be given to the present pool of human and financial resources available for post-conflict work and an agreement must be reached on reliable bases for their allocation to the United Nations and other operations as and when needed.

11. Third, the persistence of the demand for peacekeeping operations was one of the few predictable features of peacekeeping. As for the rest, the United Nations must be prepared to expect the unexpected. As in the past, operations would have to be mounted at short notice and tailored to each specific situation.

12. Fourth, the complexity of post-conflict transitions meant that the operations must be carried out on many tracks at the same time — political, humanitarian, economic, protection of human rights, security — often in high-risk environments. Many of the tasks related to peacebuilding as much as to peacekeeping, and so the integrated peacekeeping operations had to be linked to longer-term peacebuilding and development activities.

13. Those realities presented DPKO with some difficult dilemmas. On the one hand, the peacekeeping capability had been strengthened, and hard work was being done on many fronts to strengthen it further; on the other hand, the demand for peacekeeping was increasing geometrically in scale and complexity, while resources remained limited. Should United Nations peacekeeping operations be conducted on the scale currently demanded? Were the necessary resources available? What additional measures were needed to increase them further? Or should perhaps the United Nations focus its peacekeeping work on a more limited number of niche tasks? If so, what alternative means were available for meeting the whole range of needs on the ground?

14. The cases of Afghanistan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo illustrated the complicated situation of peacekeeping operations. In Afghanistan, the United Nations was facing a security challenge which it could not cope with alone. In line with the recommendations contained in the Brahimi report, the Organization had proposed limiting the scope of its mandate to a civilian assistance role. Other actors were better equipped to deal with the security aspects. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, however, there had been no such option. There the Organization required increased forces if it was to establish the basic security needed for support of the transitional peace process.

15. The more the demand increased, the harder it was to find the resources needed for carrying out the mandates of the operations. And it was harder still to find the quality which was so important in specific areas. It was a question not only of finding the gross numbers of mandated personnel or deploying the necessary technical resources but also of finding specific high-demand human resources, including highly qualified specialists.

16. There were thus at least two problems which must be solved as a matter of priority in the coming year. The first concerned the processes by which the Organization obtained the right capabilities, for example the troops, the specialized components, the police, the civilian experts. The second related to the deployment of those capabilities in the field and to the integration and rationalization of the joint efforts of the United Nations system and the rest of the international community to assist with the consolidation of peace.

17. Despite the winding-down of the United Nations presence in Sierra Leone and Timor-Leste, the surge in peacekeeping activity in other places over the past year had led to an increase in the total number of United Nations peacekeepers deployed in the field: the number of troops had increased from 32,200 to 54,200; civilian

police from 4,400 to 5,900; and civilian staff from 9,700 to 11,600.

18. The budget of United Nations peacekeeping operations was approaching $3 billion a year, but that figure did not capture the full array of demands waiting on the horizon. DPKO also supported key non-peacekeeping missions led by the Department of Political Affairs. The demand for DPKO services would continue to increase if the Organization deployed missions in Iraq and the Sudan. Five of the 17 DPKO operations had yet to reach their mandated troop strength. There was a shortfall of some 5,400 troops on the ground. Thanks were due to all the troop-contributing countries for their efforts to staff the units fully, but there was still a shortage of highly qualified specialists, including helicopter pilots, communications personnel, special forces, etc.

19. Rapid deployment was another key issue. New options must be explored in order to avoid any future shortfall in rapid-deployment personnel. Such forces were needed to assist with the start-up of new missions and when existing missions were under serious threat. In their current form the United Nations standby arrangements did not allow for the formation of such a strategic reserve. It might be possible to envisage the preparation and holding on standby of pre-trained and equipped units which would remain under the command of the troop-contributing countries pending deployment. Given an arrangement for their rapid deployment to peacekeeping operations, when needed, such reserve units could be sent to the field in operational order and brought under United Nations command. The mere existence of such a standby force would act as a deterrent to spoilers of the peace process.

20. A shortage of specialists with specific skills was also felt in the formation of police units. For example, the Department still needed 960 French-speaking police officers. The challenge was a real one, and thanks were due to a number of countries, including Spain, Cameroon, Senegal, the United States and Turkey, for their assistance in recruiting such specialists. The overall approach to meeting police requirements must also be reconsidered. The lessons of past operations indicated that it was not sufficient merely to train police officers. There must be a sustainable law-enforcement institution to support them and bolster the rule of law on the ground. The Department's approach to the formation of police forces had now changed: with fewer civilian police, the focus had shifted to the recruitment of larger numbers of highly qualified police officers and civilian experts with skills in such areas as policy and planning, police operations, police administration, budgeting, human resources management and logistics, intelligence and information gathering.

21. The backbone of all the Organization's peacekeeping operations was the civilian staff, which supported all the components of a mission and helped to move the peace process forward. The effectiveness of the selection and recruitment of the broad range of civilian specialists needed by today's missions must be improved. That would be a priority for the Department in the coming year.

22. The Department needed to attract, recruit and retain high-quality staff. The conditions of service in the field must be reviewed. And it was imperative to make changes in the use of 100 and 300 series contracts for field staff. He requested support for his proposal to use short-term contracts for persons engaged for time-limited activities and to offer 100 series contracts to persons engaged for six months or longer.

23. Pre-mandate commitment authority had proved a very effective tool for accelerating mission start-ups by funding the deployment of initial civilian and military personnel and purchasing equipment and matériel not available from DPKO stocks. The establishment of the strategic deployment stocks in Brindisi would allow the Organization to provide the logistical support necessary for rapid deployment. There might be a need to re-examine the levels of the strategic deployment stocks, the mix of stocks, and the replenishment mechanisms. The first mission-specific policy and mission-specific planning teams had been created, but much remained to be done in terms of the integration of the planning, support and management of operations.

24. The Department could not and should not duplicate at Headquarters capacities available elsewhere. One of its central tasks in the conduct of operations was to draw the whole system together. The Department might have to be restructured if it was to play its role in unifying the efforts of its partners in the planning, deployment and management of operations.

25. The United Nations Secretariat and its partners could not cope with all the challenges of integration. One of the biggest challenges lay in the funding of the various types of activity. Certain security activities had traditionally been financed from assessed contributions, while reconstruction and development measures had relied on voluntary contributions.

26. The success of post-conflict work depended on how the needs were satisfied on the ground. The Department had developed a concrete policy and procedures for its missions. In consultation with the United Nations Security Coordinator and with the organizations of the United Nations system working in the field, it was developing a unified integrated security-management structure. The aim was to make optimum use of the human resources and technical capabilities of the United Nations.

27. The Department was carrying out 17 operations; it was necessary to continue to maintain the high quality of the existing resources, to ensure their rapid and efficient deployment, and to use the capacities of the United Nations system to the full.

28. **The Chairman** suggested that, since some confidential matters might come up during the further discussion of the information given by the Under-Secretary-General, the meeting should move into closed session.

29. *It was so decided.*

The meeting was suspended at 11.05 a.m. and resumed at 12.55 p.m.

Agenda item 109: Programme planning (*continued*)

Programme 23 of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2006-2007

30. **The Chairman** drew the attention of the members of the Committee to draft resolutions A and B adopted by the Committee without a vote on 21 October 2004. He understood that paragraphs 33 to 38 of draft resolution B referred specifically to the proposed strategic framework for the period 2006-2007. By adopting that draft resolution, the Committee had taken a decision on the changes to be made in programme 23 (Public information) as contained in document A/59/6 (Prog. 23).

31. If the Committee agreed with that understanding, he would inform the President of the General Assembly, on behalf of the Committee, of the decision taken by the Special Political and Decolonization Committee on programme 23 under agenda item 109.

32. *It was so decided.*

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.

United Nations A/C.4/59/SR.16

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Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

Summary record of the 16th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 26 October 2004, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Droba (Vice-Chairman) ..... (Slovakia)

Contents

Agenda item 77: Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects (*continued*)

General debate (continued)

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04-57173 (E)

In the absence of Mr. Swe (Myanmar), Mr. Droba (Slovakia), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Agenda item 77: Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects (*continued*)

General debate (continued)

1. **Mr. El Alaoui** (Morocco), speaking on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement, reiterated the Movement's general position on United Nations peacekeeping: the establishment of any new peacekeeping operation or the extension of any existing mandate under Chapter VI of the Charter of the United Nations should be based not only on the consent of the parties but also on the principle of the non-use of force except in self-defence. Impartiality, clearly defined mandates and secure financing were essential to a mission's success. However, peacekeeping could not be a substitute for a permanent solution or for measures to address the underlying causes of a conflict.

2. The international community was now at a critical juncture, facing a need to solve complicated problems in meeting the growing requirements for peacekeeping personnel, logistical support and financial resources. In that connection the members of the Non-Aligned Movement called for a review of the existing level of pre-mandate commitment authority and the replenishment of the strategic deployment stocks in order to ensure the rapid deployment of new missions. There was also a need for larger numbers of suitably qualified specialized civilian police and for increased cooperation among troop-contributing countries, the Security Council and the Secretariat. The Security Council Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations should hold more frequent meetings with troop-contributing countries, especially in the early stages of mission planning.

3. It was important to strengthen regional peacekeeping, especially in Africa, and to reaffirm the primacy of the United Nations in maintaining peace and security. In view of the increasing threats to United Nations personnel, constant attention must be given to the gathering and processing of information in the field in order to guarantee their safety and security. With regard to the claims of troop-contributing countries for reimbursement of their costs, it was vitally important for the Member States to pay their assessed contributions in full, on time and without conditions. Another important issue for the members of the Non-Aligned Movement was the persisting gap between developing and developed countries in the contribution of personnel and equipment to United Nations peacekeeping operations.

4. **Mr. Mekdad** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that his delegation endorsed the statement made by the representative of Morocco on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement. A number of successful outcomes had been achieved and many problems had been solved in the course of United Nations peacekeeping operations. That confirmed the central role of the United Nations as the leading multilateral organization for the maintenance of international peace and security. Peacekeeping played an important part in easing tensions and creating favourable conditions for peacebuilding. Despite their increasing complexity, peacekeeping operations continued to be conducted successfully. They had achieved remarkable successes in Sierra Leone, Timor-Leste, Bosnia and Herzegovina and other parts of the world. Nevertheless, peacebuilding must not be viewed as an alternative to the final settlement of a conflict, for that could be attained only by removing its root causes.

5. The United Nations had begun its peacekeeping work half a century ago in the Middle East and it was still conducting operations there as a result of Israel's continuing defiance of the resolutions adopted by the international community. His country advocated the rapid deployment of peacekeeping missions and the prompt reimbursement of the costs of troop-contributing countries and emphasized the need for observance of the guiding principles of peacekeeping operations, strict compliance with mandates, and respect for the principles of the United Nations. It was important to formulate clear and realistic mandates free of double standards and to reinforce the procedures and measures for ensuring the safety and security of peacekeeping personnel. It was also important to establish an authentic trilateral partnership between the Security Council, the General Assembly and troop-contributing countries in the planning, preparation and conduct of peacekeeping operations.

6. **Mr. Leong** Yue Kheong (Singapore) said that the recent significant increase in peacekeeping operations was stepping up the pressure on the Member States to contribute additional troops and financial resources.

There remained shortfalls in specialized military capabilities in air transport, logistics, field medical facilities, and even knowledge of local languages. And there was a growing need for protection of peacekeepers and civilian personnel involved in United Nations work. Despite the significant progress made by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), there were three areas requiring urgent attention.

7. Firstly, it was a matter of urgency to strengthen the protection of United Nations personnel, including civilians and volunteers, for safety was crucial for their morale and for the effectiveness of peacekeeping operations, as well as for the authority of the Organization itself. The introduction of joint mission analysis cells was noteworthy in that connection. The information gathered on the ground must be complemented by continued monitoring of potential threats with the assistance of other agencies and regular assessment of threats and risks arising in the course of current operations.

8. Secondly, peacekeeping operations needed to be better integrated. An effort must be made right from the outset to synchronize both peacekeeping and peacebuilding so that the entire continuum was managed as one integrated operation. In addition to planning, integration must encompass the allocation of resources, initial force training and preparation, and security management. The integrated training of military, police and civilian personnel was one of the essential conditions for building a fully fledged force.

9. Thirdly, the deployment of United Nations peacekeeping missions must be speeded up. Response times could be improved by increasing the logistical support and the rapid deployment stocks. That undertaking could be facilitated by qualitative training of personnel so that they were ready for action in complex peacekeeping operations. The work of the various regional peacekeeping training centres warranted encouragement in that connection. The experience of the Defence and Security Commission of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and its use of standby units with a rapid-reaction component equipped and ready for deployment in West Africa offered a useful example. The current arrangements for authorizing the early release of resources from the Peacekeeping Reserve Fund should be simplified. Since the solution of peacekeeping problems required patience, expectations of the time needed for the efforts to bear fruit must be realistic.

10. **Mr. Kitaoka** (Japan) said that peacekeeping operations were an effective means of promoting conflict resolution. In addition to paying its assessed contributions for peacekeeping operations, his Government provided troops and other personnel and financial and material support, as well as taking part in activities to promote peace processes and peacebuilding. There had recently been a sharp increase in the number of peacekeeping operations, especially in Africa, which entailed further cooperation among the Member States, not only among the troop-contributing countries but also among the countries which furnished the operations with financial support; Japan would certainly fulfil its obligations in that regard as a responsible member of the international community. His Government pointed to the need for effective and efficient management of the operations and for exploration of the possibility of more flexible allocation of resources among missions deployed in the same region. There was also a need for periodic review of the size of missions and for them to be scaled down as their mandates were fulfilled.

11. The international community should recognize that not all the missions were accomplishing their mandated objectives and acknowledge the difficulties entailed in complex missions whose work included peacebuilding. It must undertake a comprehensive review of the conduct of such complex missions and their peacebuilding activities and formulate policies and strategies for meeting those hard challenges.

12. In that connection Japan wished to underscore the crucial importance of an effective linkage between ownership — the efforts of the Governments and peoples of a conflict region — and partnership with the international community. For example, through the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) the countries of Africa had been taking their own development initiatives while maintaining a close partnership with the international community. It was appropriate to use the possibilities offered by regional and subregional organizations. Japan appreciated the conflict-resolution initiatives of ECOWAS in West Africa and the work of the African Union in connection with the peace process in Burundi and the problems in Darfur.

13. It was also necessary to enhance the peacebuilding partnership with country teams on the ground and with the Bretton Woods institutions. It was extremely important to create businesses to facilitate sustainable development and the establishment of industries in post-conflict regions, and consideration must therefore be given to the question of how to make greater use of the knowledge and experience of the private sector for those purposes.

14. In view of the great significance of the changes taking place in peacekeeping functions and of the need for cooperation with the relevant organizations, Japan was planning to hold a seminar to discuss cooperation in peacekeeping work and the demands placed on the personnel recruited. It emphasized the continuing need to implement General Assembly resolution 56/293, which urged the Secretary-General to take immediate measures to improve the representation of underrepresented and unrepresented Member States in future recruitment of DPKO personnel.

15. **Mr. Wali** (Nigeria) noted the positive developments in DPKO since the conclusion of the work of the Brahimi Panel. Peacekeeping operations could be successful only if a holistic approach and strategies continued to be applied. Nigeria was committed to the principle of resolving internal tensions through peaceful means.

16. Considering that poverty was one of the causes of conflicts, Nigeria supported the involvement of Bretton Woods institutions in cooperation with United Nations agencies in conflict prevention, disarmament, demobilization and rehabilitation programmes.

17. Nigeria commended the enhanced capability of DPKO to deploy peacekeeping operations more rapidly in very difficult situations. He called on DPKO to make more effective use of the on-call list of civilian personnel to fill vacancies in current field missions.

18. The delegation of Nigeria noted the continued improvement in the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) programme. The Secretariat should be given adequate resources to implement that programme. Nigeria called on Member States and the international community to support the DDR programme in Liberia and Guinea-Bissau in order to ensure sustainable peace in those countries.

19. Since the Charter of the United Nations recognized the vital role of regional and subregional organizations in conflict resolution, peacekeeping and peacebuilding, Nigeria called on the United Nations to enhance the capacity of regional and subregional organizations. The experience of ECOWAS in crisis management confirmed the cost-effectiveness of peacekeeping operations.

20. Nigeria welcomed the establishment of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa, which illustrated the United Nations determination to strengthen its cooperation with the African Union and other regional organizations for the maintenance of peace and security on the continent.

21. Nigeria commended the assistance and cooperation between the United Nations and ECOWAS in peacekeeping and peacebuilding in Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire and Sierra Leone. ECOWAS had been able to resolve complex humanitarian issues in the region through the active cooperation and assistance of the United Nations.

22. The safety and security of United Nations and associated personnel were of concern to the Nigerian delegation. In that connection, Nigeria condemned the bombing at the United Nations Office in Baghdad and endorsed the proposal for creating a unified security management system.

23. The effectiveness of peacekeeping operations largely depended on the ability of troop-contributing countries to deploy troops rapidly and effectively. Regrettably, most developing troop-contributing countries were still unable to deploy their troops to missions within the recommended periods.

24. Nigeria commended the efforts of DPKO to develop an integrated training policy and strategy and the coordination of training of military, civilian police and civilian components of peacekeeping operations.

25. **Ms. Maso** (South Africa) said that her delegation appreciated the briefing by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, in which he had outlined a multitude of challenges facing the Secretariat in ensuring the effective deployment, management and support of peacekeeping operations. Despite all their weaknesses and constraints, such operations continued to make an important and valuable contribution to the maintenance of international peace and security. They were being carried out in difficult situations in such countries as

the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, Burundi and Côte d'Ivoire, as well as in other countries, inspiring hope in millions of people living in conflict areas. That bore testimony to the indispensability of the operations and their central role in the maintenance of international peace and security.

26. Her delegation noted the sharp increase in the number of peacekeeping operations and was concerned about the difficulty of generating capabilities for the missions. The Member States must ask themselves whether they were doing everything possible for the success of the missions. That question was at the core of the efforts to make peacekeeping an effective instrument. It was widely acknowledged that most of the developing countries would like to make their contribution to peacekeeping but lacked the necessary capability, while the developed countries had the capability but lacked the political will. The time had come to bridge that gap by creating partnerships to address the logistical problems of troop contributors.

27. The interesting proposal of the Under-Secretary-General concerning trilateral agreements between the United Nations, troop-contributing countries and donor countries warranted detailed study. Her delegation noted the options which he had presented for improving the rapid and effective deployment of the peacekeeping capabilities of the United Nations and would welcome further details on the strategic reserve, including the civilian personnel involved. It was convinced that peacekeeping could not be an end in itself but must be aimed at creating better conditions for socio-economic development and good governance. The main causes of conflicts in Africa were economic: the struggle for access to or control or exploitation of scarce natural resources. That was why her delegation advocated an integrated approach which incorporated peacebuilding during the start-up of a peacekeeping mission. Quick-impact projects might serve as a good basis for such work.

28. Quite often a country relapsed into conflict as soon as the peacekeepers had left. Peacekeeping missions must therefore include specialists in post-conflict work and allocate appropriate resources for such work in order to ensure a smooth transition from peacekeeping to peacebuilding. An integrated approach was important, especially in the case of activities funded from voluntary contributions; in many missions the results achieved during the peacekeeping operation were easily undermined by the lack of progress in such activities.

29. Peacekeeping was a very expensive exercise, and every effort had to be made to ensure a mission's success once the decision had been taken to establish it. In that regard her delegation supported the expansion of the strategic deployment stocks and the review of the pre-mandate authorization procedure in order to shorten the time-lag between the approval of a mandate and the actual deployment of a mission. There was also a problem of differences in interpretation between the Secretariat and the field operations concerning the terms of memoranda of understanding, which had an adverse effect on the participation of troop-contributing countries. Recommendations from the Secretary-General for improving coordination in that area would be welcome.

30. One of the most important innovations in the management of international security in the period since the ending of the cold war was the concept of the shared responsibility of the United Nations and regional organizations for the effective settlement of conflicts in the various regions of the world. The Security Council could indeed use regional organizations for that purpose by virtue of their proximity to and profound knowledge of particular conflicts. In many cases a regional organization could intervene sooner than the United Nations. For instance, the African Union had been the first body to assist the peoples of Burundi and Darfur.

31. The Member States might soon have to define in clear terms how the Organization could use regional organizations which were prepared to assist. The international community had requested the African Union to expand its involvement in Darfur, but that request had so far not been accompanied by an indication that the international community intended to assign a specific amount of resources for that purpose.

32. **Mr. Kim** Sam-hoon (Republic of Korea) said that the Republic of Korea attached great importance to the role of United Nations peacekeeping operations in maintaining international peace and security. The image and the relevance of the United Nations in the eyes of the peoples represented in the Organization were shaped more by the performance of its peacekeeping missions than by anything else. The Republic of Korea had participated actively in peacekeeping operations in various countries of the

world, including Somalia, Angola, Western Sahara, Timor-Leste and others.

33. The demand for peacekeeping operations now exceeded the capacity of the United Nations or any regional or subregional organization. With the forthcoming establishment of a new peacekeeping force in the Sudan and the increases in troop levels in Haiti and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the total number of United Nations peacekeepers would soon exceed the record of 78,000 set in 1993. Peacekeeping operations were acquiring more complex mandates, which increasingly included political, economic and social dimensions and presupposed the participation of diverse partners. The most daunting challenge in that regard was how to meet the surging demand for peacekeeping operations, which were growing in size and complexity, from the limited resources available to the United Nations. In order to cope with that challenge, it was first necessary to strengthen further the Organization's operational capabilities. That would require not only an increased input of resources but also constant improvements in the quality of the training of mission personnel and in the efficiency of support from Headquarters.

34. The importance of cooperation between the United Nations and regional arrangements could not be overemphasized. That was confirmed by the examples of the Organization's successful cooperation with the African Union, ECOWAS, the European Union, NATO, OSCE and CARICOM in Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire, Burundi, the Sudan, Kosovo, Haiti and Afghanistan. It was vital to enhance further the role of regional organizations and make more efficient use of their comparative advantages in a complementary and mutually reinforcing manner in order to increase the effectiveness of peacekeeping operations. In that connection, DPKO should determine the optimum division of responsibilities with regional and subregional arrangements.

35. Given that the bulk of the demand for peacekeeping operations arose in Africa, it was imperative to strengthen the peacekeeping capabilities of African States. In that regard his delegation welcomed and supported the efforts and initiatives of the African Union and the African subregional arrangements to enhance their capacity to prevent, manage and resolve conflicts on the African continent. Such action deserved strong encouragement and support from the United Nations. It shared the view that peacebuilding should become an integral part of peacekeeping mandates. The success of the operations should be gauged not only by the cessation of the armed conflicts but also by the irreversibility and sustainability of the peace. The example of Haiti demonstrated that peace could not be maintained without good governance, development and reconciliation or without institutions which guaranteed the rule of law.

36. For some time there had been a tendency to invest peacekeeping missions with mandate after mandate, ranging from the disarmament and demobilization of the combatants to the establishment of the rule of law and gender mainstreaming. Of course, that could help to achieve sustainable peace on a more comprehensive basis, but the overloading of peacekeeping missions with increasingly multidimensional and complex mandates stretched their capacity and caused problems of coordination among the various actors on the ground, who might have different mandates and organizational cultures. It would be useful in that connection to make a proper analysis of how and to what extent the increased complexity of peacekeeping mandates affected the operational efficiency of the missions.

37. The surging demand for peacekeeping operations was stretching to the limit not only the capacity of the United Nations but also the capacity of the Member States to provide personnel and financial support. There was therefore a need for a firm political commitment to peacekeeping on the part of the Member States. In order to secure such a commitment, the Security Council and DPKO must engage the major stakeholders in the decision-making process, including potential troop-contributing countries and the countries which bore a significant part of the financial burden. In conclusion, his delegation paid tribute to the memory of those who had lost their lives in the service of United Nations peacekeeping.

38. **Ms. Laohaphan** (Thailand) said that, today, United Nations peacekeeping operations were more concerned with intra-State conflicts, which were becoming increasingly complex, had a devastating impact on the economies and social fabric of the affected countries and led to human rights violations. In addition to conflict resolution, peacekeeping also involved assistance in nation-building and in many other areas. That required a comprehensive, multidimensional approach that did not end with the

resolution of the conflict but continued so as to ensure sustainable development and stability.

39. As the tasks of modern-day peacekeeping became ever more numerous and multifaceted, closer coordination was needed among all the United Nations agencies concerned, as well as with civil society and troop-contributing countries. Her Government provided support to many United Nations peacekeeping operations, most notably in the areas of humanitarian relief and post-conflict nation-building, and would continue to do so, in close cooperation with the United Nations. It was a staunch supporter of multilateralism and of broader cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations. Such cooperation must, however, take account of the particularities of each region. The United Nations should engage regional organizations in conflict resolution more actively because they had a deeper understanding of the complex problems in their respective regions. A good example would be the success of ECOWAS and the African Union in resolving the conflicts in Liberia and the Sudan. The Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) envisaged the establishment by 2020 of a security community, which would play a leading role in assisting United Nations peacekeeping missions in the region.

40. The success of peacekeeping missions depended on a number of factors, one of the most important of which was the ability to respond to a crisis in a timely manner with well-trained, well-equipped personnel. Her delegation therefore welcomed the efforts of the Secretary-General to strengthen the United Nations standby arrangements system and the strategic deployment stocks.

41. As one of the 102 countries participating in United Nations peacekeeping operations, Thailand wished to reiterated its firm commitment to partnership and cooperation in that area. It would continue to give unwavering support to United Nations peacekeeping to the extent that its resources permitted it to do so.

42. **Mr. Choisuren** (Mongolia) said that he concurred with the assertion by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations that the Organization faced some difficult dilemmas with respect to peacekeeping. Although the Department of Peacekeeping Operations had undoubtedly made considerable progress in reforming and revitalizing United Nations peacekeeping capacity in recent years, the scope and complexity of new peacekeeping operations and the ever-growing demand for such operations posed very difficult questions for the Organization as to the future shape of those activities.

43. There had in fact been a steep surge in demand for United Nations peacekeeping, as demonstrated by the establishment of four new peacekeeping operations in the previous 12 months alone. Regrettably, as new conflicts emerged and old ones were reignited in various parts of the world, the number of such operations would only increase.

44. The line between peacekeeping and peacebuilding had become blurred. Today, peacekeeping operations were extremely complex in nature and encompassed a wide range of activities, including organization and monitoring of elections, repatriation and reintegration of refugees, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of former combatants, mine action and so forth. The goal of peacekeeping operations was not to bring temporary relief, but to create the conditions for lasting peace, which, as experience had shown, could be achieved only by taking a whole range of actions, from disarmament to reintegration.

45. Naturally, that led to increased demand for technical means, financial resources and all categories of personnel, particularly staff with specialized skills, which placed a tremendous strain on existing capacity. One way of easing the burden on the United Nations was to enhance cooperation with regional and subregional organizations. His delegation therefore welcomed initiatives to that end, particularly the cooperation between the United Nations and ECOWAS, the European Union, ASEAN and other organizations. In addition, there was a need to examine the possibility of enhancing the cost-effectiveness of peacekeeping operations, particularly by paying greater attention to the development of local capacity.

46. His delegation also took note of the initiative to establish a United Nations standing capacity by preparing and maintaining a reserve of pre-trained, pre-equipped units, which would remain under the command of the troop-contributing countries prior to deployment. In its view, that concept and any substantive changes to the current standby arrangements system should be given very careful consideration by all the parties concerned and should be adopted only if a broad consensus was achieved.

47. In the light of the challenges facing the United Nations today, his delegation was eagerly awaiting the findings of the High-Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change to be submitted later in the year. That should not, however, prevent delegations from engaging within the Committee in a frank and open exchange of views on the issue of further streamlining all aspects of peacekeeping, for the Committee was uniquely positioned to serve as a forum for in-depth deliberations on that question.

48. Since the mid-1990s, his Government had taken determined steps to develop its peacekeeping capability, and measurable progress had been made. In 1999, it had signed a memorandum of understanding with the United Nations concerning contributions to the United Nations standby arrangements system. In 2002, a law on participation by military and police personnel in United Nations peacekeeping operations and other international operations had been adopted, establishing a national legal framework for participation by Mongolian troops in peacekeeping operations.

49. The assistance provided by the United Nations and, in particular, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, along with Mongolia's bilateral partners, had played a crucial role in the development of the peacekeeping capabilities of its armed forces. In that regard, he wished to point out the vital importance of the training courses organized by the Department. Mongolian officers who had completed those courses were currently serving in peacekeeping forces in Western Sahara and the Democratic Republic of the Congo or held key peacekeeping-related positions in the Ministry of Defence and the General Staff of the Mongolian armed forces.

50. His Government, for its part, was taking a number of measures aimed at further enhancing Mongolia's capacity to participate in peacekeeping operations. It had organized field training exercises for peacekeepers with Belgium, the United States of America and a number of countries in the Asia and Pacific region. In addition, it had established a regional peacekeeping training centre, which in June 2004 had hosted a training event with the participation of contingents from China, France, the United Kingdom and the United States. The main focus of the training had been to provide guidance to the participating contingents on the techniques and procedures required to meet a wide variety of situations and threats encountered in United Nations peacekeeping operations. Mongolia stood ready to participate in peacekeeping operations under United Nations auspices or in coalition operations authorized by the Security Council.

51. **Mr. Naseer** (Pakistan) said that his delegation wished to associate itself with the statement made by the representative of Morocco on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement. Pakistan was the largest contributor of troops to United Nations peacekeeping operations (currently, more than 8,000 Pakistani troops were serving in peacekeeping missions and, by the beginning of 2005, that figure would increase to well over 10,000); that clearly demonstrated Pakistan's abiding commitment to international peace and security. In recent years, as crises had become more complex, so had United Nations peacekeeping: it increasingly required a more comprehensive approach embracing the social, economic, judicial and other aspects. Peacekeeping and peacebuilding were converging as never before. Demand for the services of United Nations peacekeepers was growing continuously: in recent years, there had been an unprecedented increase in both the number of peacekeepers deployed and the volume of financial, administrative and logistical resources required to support them. The growth of demand for peacekeeping was expected to continue. In the light of the upsurge in peacekeeping activities, his delegation had organized two public debates on that issue, which had helped to raise awareness of future challenges in peacekeeping and to mobilize support from the membership to enable the United Nations to meet those challenges.

52. There was a need to improve both integrated mission planning and mission support. Ensuring the safety and security of peacekeepers was no less vital. In that context, his delegation wished to reiterate the importance of timely field intelligence. It looked forward to participating with other States in the review of the conditions of service of United Nations civilian personnel deployed in field missions. As the Under-Secretary-General had stated, there was a need to incorporate peacebuilding elements in peacekeeping mandates. His Government was a strong advocate of a comprehensive, integrated approach based on closer coordination between the major organs of the United Nations and the Secretariat. Its proposal for ad hoc composite committees offered a solid framework for

effectively integrating peacekeeping and peacebuilding elements at the planning and execution stages.

53. Training was of the utmost importance in the context of the upsurge in United Nations peacekeeping activities. In that regard, it was critical to draw on the extensive experience of peacekeeping operations acquired by the major troop contributors. His delegation intended to introduce a draft resolution highlighting the upsurge in peacekeeping activities and some of the key related issues.

54. His Government had been and remained a leading advocate of triangular cooperation between troop-contributing countries, the Security Council and the Secretariat. In that connection, it continued to support the holding of closed meetings of the Security Council and troop contributors. It also wished to urge the Security Council Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations to continue to invite troop-contributing countries to participate in its deliberations, particularly those related to specific peacekeeping missions.

55. Pakistan remained committed to peacekeeping, particularly as the host of one of the oldest peacekeeping operations, the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP), which could play a vital role in confidence-building in the region and in the promotion of the peace process and the protection of human rights in Kashmir. Pakistan remained one of the oldest and most consistent participants in United Nations peacekeeping operations and one of the largest troop contributors. His Government had played an important role in the development of United Nations peacekeeping and wanted to see it serve the collective purposes of the United Nations and the peoples of the countries represented in it more effectively.

56. **Mr. Berry** (Canada), speaking also on behalf of Australia and New Zealand, said that DPKO had made immense progress in establishing and managing peace-support operations. One significant indicator of the changes which had taken place was the very existence of the United Nations advance mission in the Sudan, which was preparing the ground for a potential peace-support operation to sustain the Naivasha peace process. The advance mission offered tangible evidence that the new approach to the planning of peace-support operations had become a reality. However, other facts — the continuing instability in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the massive human rights violations in Darfur, the persisting strife in Haiti and the lack of security in Iraq — highlighted the difficult challenges which remained. The Member States must help to address those challenges, for all counties were contributors in one way or another to United Nations peacekeeping and benefited from the maintenance of peace. Accordingly, all countries had an interest in protecting the investments which had been made and in maintaining the momentum generated by the implementation of the recommendations of the Brahimi Panel.

57. There were four serious challenges to United Nations peacekeeping. The first one was the "surge" in peacekeeping operations. The second was the need for the Member States to support the recommendations contained in the Secretary-General's recent report on a strengthened and unified security management system for the United Nations (A/59/365). The third was the continuing need for the United Nations and the Member States to give serious attention to the incidents of sexual exploitation in peace-support operations. The fourth was the promotion and implementation of a holistic and integrated approach to such operations.

58. A "surge" in peacekeeping operations would usually imply a temporary phenomenon. However, the present scale of peacekeeping operations was unlikely to diminish, while the other demands on national armed forces were either constant or increasing. Given that situation, the approach taken by the United Nations must be creative and flexible. For example, expanded partnerships with regional organizations and multilateral arrangements produced an obvious effect, as could be seen from the cooperation in recent years with such organizations as ECOWAS, NATO, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the European Union and the African Union.

59. Another innovative move was the establishment of the Multinational Standby Force High Readiness Brigade for United Nations Operations (SHIRBRIG), participation in which was open to all Member States and which had already proved its worth in Ethiopia, Eritrea, Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia, as well as in the context of the advance mission in the Sudan. That trend towards greater use of SHIRBRIG was expected to continue.

60. However, while partnerships played an important role in increasing the effectiveness of peacekeeping

operations, they were not sufficient in themselves. Given that the upward trend in the number of missions was likely to continue, the international community must ask itself whether the Secretariat had the necessary resources to manage the 60,000 persons deployed in 17 missions throughout the world. Was DPKO stretched beyond its capacity? Was it capable of handling properly the complex demands made on it by the Member States? Could DPKO, and for that matter the Member States, adequately respond to another major crisis or manage another new mission of any magnitude?

61. The crisis which the Organization had faced in the mid-1990s prompted the question whether the recent increase in staff and resources would be sufficient. That was not to criticize the Department, which often had to work in the most difficult circumstances. However, instead of calling for a lengthy assessment of the resources which the Department required at that particular moment, it should be provided with mechanisms for rapidly expanding and transferring its staff on a stable contractual basis, for otherwise it would be unable to cope with the demands made on it by the Member States. At the same time the Department must be required to be fully transparent and accountable in its use of such mechanisms.

62. In addition, when a crisis loomed in which United Nations involvement could reasonably be expected, use should be made of such modalities as the establishment of advance missions, appointment of special representatives of the Secretary-General and force commanders, and recruitment of mission-planning staff, in order to create the conditions for a timely start on the operational planning process in the United Nations. In addressing such questions it was impossible to overstate the importance of continuing to enhance cooperation and dialogue between the troop-contributing countries and the Security Council.

63. The security of the personnel was a basic precondition for the deployment of a peacekeeping operation. The Secretary-General's report on a strengthened and unified security management system for the United Nations was welcome in that regard. The Organization must be provided with the necessary resources for carrying out the report's recommendations. The three countries on whose behalf he was speaking fully supported its central tenets. Of equal importance was the need to ensure that the additional resources were properly used. The Under-Secretary-General was expected to keep countries informed of changes in the Organization's appraisal of the security environment in which it operated, and the Secretariat could rest assured of the willingness of the Member States to respond properly to those changes.

64. Enhancing the security of the personnel was not just a matter of increasing resources but also of demonstrating the necessary political commitment. There could be no more tangible expression of that commitment to protecting United Nations personnel than to join the Member States which had become parties to the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel. That appeal was directed in particular to those States which were hosting United Nations missions. The scope of the legal protection of United Nations and associated personnel should be expanded by way of the adoption of a new international legal instrument.

65. Special attention must be given to the need for all persons deployed in United Nations peace-support operations to be held to the highest standards of conduct and discipline. Generally speaking, nothing damaged the reputation of United Nations peacekeepers more than sexual exploitation. Such behaviour was unacceptable and must be followed up in every specific case.

66. In his report to the Security Council on women and peace and security (S/2004/814), the Secretary-General reaffirmed his conviction that sexual exploitation and sexual abuse were totally unacceptable forms of behaviour and reiterated his commitment to the full implementation of the special measures set forth in his bulletin (ST/SGB/2003/13). However, as the Secretary-General noted, the onus of combating such phenomena rested equally on the Member States, intergovernmental and regional organizations, international and national aid and civil society organizations. As he also pointed out in the report, although the Department had made real progress on that front in recent years, there was still a long way to go. Both the Department and the Member States must remain vigilant and stand ready to take determined action.

67. In particular, the Department should be equipped with the necessary capacity to investigate allegations of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse aggressively, in order not only to identify the perpetrators but also to

enable Member States to take legal action against them on the basis of the evidence gathered by the Department. Gender mainstreaming in all United Nations operations was another essential component of the struggle against sexual exploitation, and further reports on progress in that area would be welcome. Serious attention should be given to the issue in the briefing requested in the Special Committee's last report on the progress of the DPKO review of means of improving the monitoring of conduct in field missions. The three countries expected that briefing to be given at the next session of the Special Committee. The United Nations and the Member States must ensure that transparent, effective, fair and consistent disciplinary measures applied to all personnel deployed in peacekeeping missions. To that end they must agree on disciplinary rules and procedures, including rules on the investigation of every incident, transparency of information, and the sharing and disclosure of information.

68. Special importance in the context of peace-support operations attached to the linkages between development, the maintenance of the rule of law in all its aspects, good governance, including democratic elections, and the planning of peacekeeping activities in the post-conflict period, including the involvement of donors in the needs-assessment process. Poverty and conflict were interrelated in many if not all cases, and the measures taken following the completion of a peacekeeping operation were just as important as the operation itself. Effective mission planning must therefore include a clear focus on arrangements for a transition to peacebuilding on the basis of the early engagement of bilateral and multilateral development institutions in that work. It was necessary to establish overall collaboration and cooperation to that end among the specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations, as well as among the Bretton Woods institutions, international donors, and humanitarian organizations.

69. Nor was it possible to overestimate the importance of the re-establishment of the rule of law within a mission area as the basis for the exit strategy. The three countries welcomed the report of the Secretary-General (S/2004/616), which contained current information on the lessons learned and formulated important recommendations on United Nations approaches to issues of the rule of law and transitional justice.

70. Two matters of a technical nature must also be addressed. The first related to the development of a standardized DPKO training module for enhancing the readiness of national military personnel for deployment to peacekeeping operations. The introduction of such a module would improve the training of the personnel not only of the United Nations itself but also of Member States and the staff of their missions in New York. The second matter, as the Department was aware, was that the three countries remained concerned about the discrimination in remuneration between staff officers of United Nations missions and military observers. They suggested as an interim measure that staff officers should have the status of military observers pending a decision to place them in some other category. The improvement in the morale of staff officers, and therefore of the mission's effectiveness as well, would far outweigh any increase in peacekeeping expenditure. The three countries were ready to continue a constructive dialogue with the Department on the subject.

71. **Mr. van den Berg** (Netherlands), speaking on behalf of the European Union, the candidate countries (Bulgaria, Croatia, Romania and Turkey), the stabilization and association process countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), and, in addition, Norway, said that the European Union had always actively supported peacekeeping and had taken part in peacekeeping operations and other related activities throughout the world, manifesting thereby its commitment to United Nations policy for the maintenance of peace on the planet. The 25 States members of the European Union contributed more than 36 per cent of the regular budget of the United Nations, roughly half of total voluntary contributions to United Nations funds and programmes, and 40 per cent of the peacekeeping budget. They currently had some 50,000 troops deployed in peacekeeping missions. As the Union became larger and more integrated, its members were expanding their military and civilian crisis-management capabilities. In step with the recent surge in the number of peacekeeping operations the strategic partnerships between the United Nations and the African Union, the European Union, NATO and regional and subregional organizations had begun to play a more important role.

72. The cooperation between the European Union and the United Nations was built on the European

commitment to an effective multilateral system with a strong United Nations at its core. Within the framework of the Joint Declaration of the European Union and the United Nations on crisis-management issues, the European Union was working on the development of the concept of battle groups and on the further development of its cooperation with the United Nations on the management of civilian crises.

73. In the context of the recent surge in the number of peacekeeping operations throughout the world, the European Union had concentrated on some major priority areas. Firstly, it attached the highest priority to strengthening the safety and security of United Nations and associated personnel deployed in the field and welcomed the steps taken by the Secretary-General for a thorough review of the system for ensuring their safety and security. It recognized the need for an enhanced capacity for security assessment and risk and threat analysis and welcomed in particular the risk-management approach outlined by the United Nations. The European Union would support appropriate improvements in the United Nations security system, including the allocation of the necessary resources, and would strongly support the efforts to increase the effectiveness of the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel. It regretted that the joint mission analysis cells were not yet fully operational in peacekeeping missions.

74. In another important area — cooperation with regional arrangements — the European Union was actively engaged in a number of peacekeeping operations, and its cooperation with the United Nations on crisis-management issues continued to grow and strengthen. It also welcomed the partnerships established between the United Nations and other regional and subregional organizations.

75. In a third important area — strengthening the operational capabilities of the United Nations — the increasing number of peacekeeping operations had stretched the Organization's planning and management capacity. The effectiveness of field headquarters, especially in a mission's build-up phase, depended largely on the level of training and cohesiveness of the personnel of the headquarters in question. The European Union urged wider use of pre-existing headquarters capability in the initial phase of any peacekeeping operation, thus allowing staff at United Nations Headquarters time for formation, training, planning and full deployment of the mission. It wished to continue to discuss the use of pre-existing headquarters capability with the relevant organizations. Planning was another area in which the European Union wanted to develop cooperation. In order to improve the interaction of United Nations staff, especially military and civilian police, with the local people, due attention should be paid to the need to select candidates competent in the relevant languages.

76. The European Union had substantially increased its support of peacekeeping in Africa. Its African Peace Facility had become operational in May 2004, on the basis of the principle of African ownership and solidarity, with the aim of developing active cooperation between the European Union and the African Union in preventing and responding to conflicts on the African continent. Resources totalling 250 million euros had been earmarked for peacekeeping and support for institutional capacity-building in Africa. The European Union was currently considering ways of mobilizing other instruments at its disposal for expanding further its support for African initiatives for the prevention, management and settlement of conflicts on the continent. One striking example of the cooperation between the European Union and the African Union was the support given to the African Union's monitoring mission in Darfur: an initial contribution of 12 million euros had been followed by agreement to contribute a further 80 million euros. The European Union reiterated its willingness to give further assistance for the expansion of that mission and acknowledged the pivotal role of the United Nations in connection with it.

77. The planning and implementation of peacebuilding activities in the context of peacekeeping was integral to the success of a peacekeeping operation in the short term, the establishment of sustainable peace, and the long-term prevention of conflicts. Peacebuilding measures could have a significant impact on the political, social and economic environment in a mission's early phases and should be addressed in mission mandates from the outset in the light of the individual needs in each case. Too often there was an intervention gap at the strategic and operational levels between peacebuilding measures and peacekeeping operations. The strategic and operational planning of peacebuilding in DPKO and other parts of the United Nations system and in external entities was not yet satisfactory. Greater attention must be given to the assignment of the tasks to be addressed jointly by

the partners of the United Nations. An effective integrated mission planning process and effective financing, too often insufficient, were critical to the success of peacebuilding activities. Funding for peacebuilding activities in post-conflict situations must be provided earlier and more predictably. The balance between assessed and voluntary contributions should be examined in that regard.

78. The European Union reiterated the importance of adopting a gender-sensitive approach to peacekeeping. Although the adoption by the Security Council of resolution 1325 (2000) on the subject of women and peace and security had improved awareness of gender issues, much remained to be done by way of addressing such issues in order to improve the situation of women in the post-conflict period and to secure their full and equal inclusion in negotiations, peace processes and decision-making bodies. But the gender perspective had not been systematically integrated into monitoring and reporting, and women remained seriously underrepresented in peacekeeping operations and in the position of Special Representative of the Secretary-General. The European Union called on the United Nations system to demonstrate real leadership and its commitment to gender mainstreaming.

79. The surge in peacekeeping operations was bringing to the fore such issues as the extent to which United Nations missions in the same region should cooperate with each other. Such cooperation must be encouraged, and possible synergies between adjacent missions should be explored further.

80. The European Union wished to discuss with other Member States and with the Secretariat ways of ensuring a more consistent exchange of information on the implementation of the Special Committee's recommendations throughout the year and using the outcome of the debate in the Fourth Committee as a true midterm review; with that in mind, the Special Committee's report might be restructured in such a way as to distinguish clearly between short-term and long-term priorities.

81. **Mr. Zhanibekov** (Kazakhstan) said that his delegation was grateful to the Secretary-General for his report and to the Under-Secretary-General for his wide-ranging review of United Nations peacekeeping. Given the increase in the scale and brutality of international terrorism and organized crime, the ceaseless armed conflicts, the menacing deterioration in the environment, and the spread of poverty, destitution and disease, peacekeeping operations conducted under United Nations auspices remained an effective tool for crisis settlement and establishment of global and regional peace. Kazakhstan fully supported the peacekeeping work of the United Nations and the further enhancement of its peacekeeping capabilities; having paid its arrears of contribution to the peacekeeping budget at the beginning of the year, it intended to continue to fulfil its financial obligations on a regular basis.

82. The steps proposed by the Secretary-General to secure an integrated, coordinated and comprehensive approach to conflict situations took full account of the complex and multifaceted nature of new conflicts, the avoidance of which required, above all, preventive action by the United Nations itself. Preventive measures, post-conflict peacebuilding, and efforts to protect civilians were important elements of a comprehensive reaction by the United Nations to emerging crises. Kazakhstan was in favour of strengthening the role of preventive diplomacy and remained of the opinion that the idea of establishing a United Nations preventive diplomacy centre in Central Asia was a timely one. The Organization should give special attention to the possibility of expanding the participation of leading regional and subregional organizations in peacekeeping operations, with a view to a more effective and rapid response to emerging threats. His delegation endorsed the Secretary-General's conclusion that the effectiveness and success of United Nations peacekeeping and peacebuilding still depended on mobilizing and implementing comprehensive regional approaches to problems which were transnational in their origins and consequences.

83. In the current unstable international situation, great importance attached to issues of the safety of peacekeeping personnel, especially in the light of the increased threat to the civilian staff of United Nations missions. His delegation endorsed the efforts of the Secretariat and DPKO to improve the security measures and the planning of peacekeeping operations by combining the efforts of various United Nations structures, funds and programmes and welcomed the steps taken to widen further the mandate of the standby arrangements system. In October 2003 Kazakhstan had signed a memorandum of understanding with the United Nations concerning its contributions to the standby system; it was now ready to provide personnel

and armoured and other vehicles for peacekeeping operations and wished to play a more active role in the peacekeeping procurement arrangements. Not one of the applications for DPKO posts submitted by Kazakh candidates had succeeded, even when the applicants had experience of peacekeeping operations and had undergone training on United Nations courses for peacekeepers. There was a need in that connection to improve the efficiency of the Department's procedures for securing closer cooperation with Member States in the training and deployment of their peacekeeping personnel.

84. It was heartening to note the substantial recent improvement in the understanding of the place and role of women in the establishment and maintenance of peace: their participation on a full and equal footing at levels of decision-making in a peace process was an integral part of peacekeeping operations and post-conflict reconstruction. Kazakhstan would continue resolutely to fulfil its peacekeeping obligations and to make the necessary efforts to strengthen the peacekeeping capacity of the United Nations.

85. **Mr. Strømmen** (Norway) expressed his gratitude to the staff of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, both at Headquarters and in the field, for their tireless efforts in managing current operations and planning for new missions. His delegation considered that attention should be focused above all on six key issues: the importance of inter-organizational cooperation in peacekeeping; the challenges inherent in the integrated mission concept; the security of United Nations and associated personnel and that of civilians in mission areas; security sector reform as a key element in any peacebuilding strategy; the need for qualified civilian personnel; and the continuing need actively to address HIV/AIDS in a peacekeeping context.

86. His delegation welcomed the strengthened relationship between the United Nations and the European Union, and between the United Nations and NATO as a means of expanding global peacekeeping capacity. Smooth cooperation between the various organizations involved in such operations was essential in order to ensure optimal use of resources. The leadership of the African Union in Darfur was only the latest example of the growing importance of regional organizations in peace operations.

87. His delegation hoped that the plans for a United Nations mission in the Sudan would be implemented in the near future, signalling an end to one of the longest conflicts on the African continent. A United Nations mission in the Sudan would have to face all the challenges inherent in multidimensional peacekeeping and integrated missions.

88. Coordination and coherence were the guiding principles of any United Nations operation. Much had already been done in that area in the follow-up to the Brahimi report. At the same time, there was still scope for better inter-agency planning, both at Headquarters and in the field. The economic development aspects of operations also deserved special attention. The dialogue between the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the United Nations Development Group on those issues was to be welcomed. His delegation was looking forward to the outcome of the joint study on the peacekeeping/humanitarian/development interface by the core group of the expanded Executive Committee on Humanitarian Affairs. Those key issues had been discussed at the United Nations Senior Management Seminar in Norway in spring 2004. The lessons learned should be incorporated into the ongoing development of standardized training modules for United Nations peacekeeping personnel.

89. Security for United Nations and associated personnel remained a major concern. His delegation welcomed the Secretary-General's proposal for a new security structure. A primary task of any peace operation must be to create a secure environment for sustainable peacebuilding. That task must be duly reflected both in the mission's mandate and in the provision of resources for its implementation. The most important objective of any mission was to rebuild and reform the armed forces, the police and the justice sector, together with the demobilization, disarmament and reintegration of former combatants. More attention must also be directed at controlling the excessive accumulation and spread of small arms and light weapons, especially in conflict-ridden areas. It was to be hoped that strengthened control measures through the establishment of legally binding instruments would facilitate the work of future peacekeepers.

90. The need for human resources was a recurring theme in any discussion on United Nations peacekeeping. Norway had recognized the growing

need for qualified civilian personnel, such as civilian police and personnel from other parts of the justice sector, and for the past 10 years had been assisting in that area through its Training for Peace programme for southern Africa. It had now been decided to extend the programme to western Africa as part of an effort to strengthen African capabilities for peace operations.

91. In March 2004, Norway had set up a crisis response pool to offer assistance in all parts of the judicial system to post-conflict countries and countries in transition. The pool consisted of judges, public prosecutors, lawyers and personnel from the prison service. His country's goal was to make 1 per cent of the Norwegian police force available for international assignments. Norway was also providing training assistance approved by the United Nations to other countries for civilian police and military personnel, thereby enlarging the global pool of resources available for international peace operations.

92. In conclusion, he drew attention to the problem of HIV/AIDS, pointing out that the most recent report of the United Nations Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations had expressed serious concern for the health of both peacekeepers and local residents. AIDS was a fatal but preventable disease and all nations had a shared responsibility to address that issue actively. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) had facilitated the task of peacekeepers through the development of AIDS education and prevention modules for peacekeepers, and he expressed the hope that those materials would be widely used.

93. **Mr. Ayafor** (Cameroon) said that there had been a sharp increase in recent years in the demand for United Nations peacekeeping operations. That trend gave hope to the people of countries suffering from armed conflict and, at the same time, constituted a serious challenge for the Organization. The implementation of the recommendations contained in the Brahimi report had enabled the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to make considerable progress in improving the conceptual, operational and strategic aspects of peacekeeping. Much, however, remained to be done, in particular to enhance the effectiveness of operations. In that connection, his delegation associated itself with the statement made by the representative of Morocco on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

94. The growth in the demand for peacekeeping operations required greater political will and solidarity on the part of the States Members of the United Nations. As the number of peace missions had increased, so had the financial requirements. The Organization estimated that, up to the end of 2004, an additional sum of about $1 billion would be needed for the financing of existing missions and for new missions. The Member States, and particularly those countries with the capacity to support peacekeeping missions, should redouble their efforts to enable the Organization to carry out the tasks facing it in that area. They might also consider the possibility of providing additional troops for peacekeeping operations.

95. Peacekeeping operations had increased not only in number but also in complexity, making it necessary for the Organization continually to strengthen its peacekeeping capacity. That required joint efforts on the part of the Security Council, the Secretariat and the troop-contributing countries, in particular in order to clarify the mandates and improve the planning of peacekeeping operations, as well as to modify and evaluate them. It was important for the United Nations to adopt a global and integrated approach to peacekeeping operations. Better use should be made of the capacity not only of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, whose tasks had substantially increased and become more complex as a result of the growth in the number of missions, but also of the funds, institutions and programmes and of civil society. More effective supervision of activities on the ground was also necessary, particularly with respect to the protection of human rights, gender mainstreaming, improvement of the situation of children and other vulnerable groups, and reconciliation between the parties in conflict. In that connection, the coordination functions carried out by the special representatives of the Secretary-General should be reviewed in order to enable them to play their part more effectively.

96. His delegation attached particular importance to the activities of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations with regard to the training of field staff. He welcomed the creation of the Training Advisory Group and also the upgrading of the mission training cells concept into the integrated mission training centres concept.

97. The need for the rapid deployment of troops should be constantly borne in mind by the Organization

because rapid deployment could prevent the spread of conflicts. That required rapid decision-making, prompt receipt of the relevant mandate from the Security Council and availability of the necessary resources. The lessons of the Liberian crisis of 2003 should continue to be heeded by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, in particular with reference to the operations in Burundi and the Sudan. Unfortunately, rapid deployment was often hampered by the lack of the necessary material resources and qualified specialists, particularly in the case of contingents from the developing countries. His delegation suggested that the Secretariat should actively seek a solution to the problem through bilateral agreements.

98. The personnel of peacekeeping missions continued to be the target of those who were opposed to the restoration of peace. His delegation urged the United Nations to enhance the effectiveness of its intelligence gathering in order to prevent attacks on its staff. In that connection, action should be taken without delay to comply with the requests by the Secretary-General to establish a mission security management unit within the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and appoint a full-time focal point for safety and security.

99. His delegation welcomed the efforts of the Secretary-General and of a number of countries to enhance the potential of the African countries for peacekeeping operations. In that connection, it was to be hoped that fruitful cooperation would be strengthened between regional organizations and the United Nations.

100. Cameroon was playing an increasingly active part in peacekeeping operations in various regions of the world. In recent years, its police personnel had taken part in United Nations missions in Kosovo, Côte d'Ivoire and Haiti and its military observers were serving in the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) and in the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI). At the request of the United Nations, there were plans to send a military unit comprising 50 soldiers to take part in the mission in Haiti. His country was ready for further cooperation with the United Nations in the field of peacekeeping. In that context, the National Police Academy in Yaoundé was willing to take students from other countries for further training and to hold seminars for French-speaking civilian police officers, who were much needed by the Organization at the present time.

101. **Mr. Fuenmayor** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) said that peacekeeping operations should be an effective means of giving effect to the provisions of the Charter. They should be conducted on the basis of the principles of agreement between the parties, impartiality and non-use of force, except in cases of legitimate defence. In addition, it was essential to define a clear mandate and to provide financial resources.

102. His country was in favour of conflict prevention through the resolution of the serious problems arising from instability and conflict situations. All decisions relating to peacekeeping operations should be consistent with the basic principles set forth in the United Nations Charter: respect for sovereignty, non-interference in internal affairs and self-determination of peoples. That position was the basis of the Constitution of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, the preamble to which specified the obligation to promote peaceful cooperation between nations and to stimulate and strengthen the integration of the countries of Latin America in accordance with the principle of non-interference and self-determination of peoples.

103. The peacekeeping operations in Haiti had been especially noteworthy. His country supported the provision of humanitarian assistance within the framework of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), on the understanding that the assistance must not be provided through intermediaries that had political interests.

104. **Mr. Hassan** (Jordan) said that, in the view of his delegation, much more should be done to enhance collective efforts in the field of peacekeeping operations. Jordan had joined Germany and Finland in elaborating a non-paper comprising a number of options that had been submitted to the Secretariat for consideration.

105. There was a need to improve coordination in the distribution of the burden of carrying out peacekeeping operations. The members of the Security Council must participate more actively in the peace operations of the United Nations. With regard to security, the United Nations should focus attention on the question of balancing the requirements for information. The

subject of misconduct and disciplinary measures was of great importance.

106. His delegation called on all Member States to pay their assessed contributions in full, on time and without conditions in accordance with the obligation set forth in Article 17 of the Charter. For many years, Jordan had been taking an active part in the process of mine clearance and had completed the destruction of all its own stockpiles of mines. It was important for donor countries and the appropriate organizations and institutions to continue to provide technical and financial assistance in that activity.

107. **Mr. Stritt** (Switzerland) said that the number of peacekeeping operations involving United Nations troops had increased considerably, particularly in Africa. That was a sign of confidence in United Nations peacekeeping. Efforts must be pursued to strengthen peacekeeping by implementing the recommendations of the Brahimi report and by learning from past experience. Switzerland welcomed the efforts of the Security Council and the Secretary-General to adapt the mandates and the size of current missions whenever circumstances required.

108. The pursuit of progress in the implementation of successful integration between the different components of missions was essential. A long-term strategy should include activities with regard to such issues as the establishment or reconstruction of institutions, the promotion of human rights, justice and the rule of law, mine clearance, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of combatants, the return of refugees and displaced persons and efforts towards economic recovery.

109. Such an extension of the functions of the new peacekeeping operations increased the importance of close cooperation between the different organizations on the ground and required an integrated approach. Moreover, dialogue between humanitarian actors and those responsible for peacekeeping operations must be pursued. International law and humanitarian law must be applied in every phase of a peacekeeping operation. That applied particularly to the training and the behaviour of staff.

110. Recent events in Kosovo, Côte d'Ivoire and the Democratic Republic of the Congo demonstrated the need for further progress in the implementation of appropriate early warning mechanisms. The populations in the regions where United Nations missions were in place were not always well-informed about the missions' mandates.

111. At the national level, Switzerland was committed to projects that would enable it to contribute more actively to the deployment of military units or to the increased allocations of military observers. It had also increased its participation in training measures and was pursuing its dialogue to identify sectors in which it could provide expertise.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.

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Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 27 October 2004, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Droba ..... (Slovakia)

Contents

Agenda item 77: Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects (*continued*)

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In the absence of Mr. Swe (Myanmar), Mr. Droba (Slovakia), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m.

Agenda item 77: Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects (*continued*)

1. **Mr. dos Santos** (Brazil), speaking on behalf of the Rio Group, said that peacekeeping operations had grown since the middle of 2003. There were currently 60,000 persons serving in 16 different missions, and the missions were expected to increase in the coming months. The United Nations was helping countries to restore their economies and address the root causes of conflict to ensure lasting and sustainable peace.

2. The surge in peacekeeping created operational difficulties in the implementation of the mandates of the United Nations and Member States. About 90 per cent of troop-contributing countries were developing countries. Developed countries must meet a larger share of the need for peacekeeping troops.

3. Other difficulties included the growing budget for peacekeeping operations, the limited capacity of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) to deal with a large number of complex missions and the problems involved in coordinating peacekeeping operations conducted in the same region and in coping with multidimensional activities, including gender mainstreaming and the establishment of the rule of law and transitional justice.

4. The Rio Group noted with concern that the activities of the Training and Evaluation Service of the Military Division of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations had been drastically reduced, as the work of the Service was of great importance for obtaining consensus among Member States on the framework for peacekeeping operations.

5. Contributing to peacekeeping operations was not restricted to the provision of troops; it encompassed all areas within the mandate of multidimensional missions, such as provision of police contingents, capacity-building of local police, electoral assistance, humanitarian assistance and cooperation in the areas of health and education. It should be noted that the countries of the Rio Group were making a significant contribution to the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti in terms of providing military and civilian police contingents, electoral assistance and other forms of cooperation. That was not only a display of solidarity but also a reaffirmation of deep commitment to the United Nations and its purpose of bringing about the peaceful settlement of conflicts.

6. All Member States must work together constructively to solve the structural problems arising from the expansion of peacekeeping operations. The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations was an essential instrument, as it gave the Secretariat instructions on how to deal with difficulties and complemented the efforts of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to meet the rising demand for peacekeeping operations. While planning and deploying missions, the Department must take into account the specific difficulties faced by developing countries, particularly financial difficulties. A mechanism must be created to allow reimbursement in advance for troops deployed by developing countries. In carrying out new operations, the Department must realize that standardized models should be used without losing the flexibility to deal with the specific characteristics of each mission. In that context, guarantees of the safety and security of United Nations personnel were vitally important.

7. Peacekeeping operations were an effective and efficient way to deal with conflicts in the world. Despite past failures, peacekeeping missions had proved to be useful mechanisms for lasting and sustainable peace. The success of peacekeeping operations depended increasingly on incorporating measures to address the root causes of conflict into the mandates of multidimensional missions. Fostering development, promoting the rule of law, establishing transitional justice mechanisms, meeting the special needs of women and children in armed conflicts and ensuring the success of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration activities were crucial steps to consolidate democratic institutions in countries emerging from conflict.

8. **Mr. Baaziz** (Algeria) thanked Mr. Guéhenno for his efforts in the area of peacekeeping and his comprehensive report on the matter. Peacekeeping missions involved implementing peace agreements, helping to facilitate political reform and create appropriate institutions, supporting economic recovery, organizing the return of refugees and displaced persons, participating in humanitarian assistance programmes, monitoring and organizing elections,

implementing programmes for the disarmament and demobilization of combatants, demining and many other activities. The success of those missions depended on such important factors as the consent of the parties, impartiality and non-use of force except in self-defence. An important prerequisite for the success of any peacekeeping operation was a realistic, clear and viable mandate. A strong international consensus on supporting such missions was also a guarantee of success. As Mr. Guéhenno had emphasized in his introductory statement, the success of the missions also required an integrated approach by the entire United Nations system — the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, funds, agencies and programmes and, in many cases, the Economic and Social Council. Such an approach required the coordination of activities with international financial institutions, regional organizations and relevant civil society organizations. His delegation shared the view of the Under-Secretary-General that the implementation of many of the recommendations in the Brahimi report had increased the effectiveness and improved the coordination of peacekeeping operations. Adequate logistical and equipment support of missions was an important aspect requiring particular attention.

9. In many cases, operations were hampered by a lack of staff. Many countries were prepared to provide troops but had great difficulty deploying them within the established time frame. In that regard, the international community must give those countries the necessary assistance so that they could effectively deploy their troops. The United Nations must cooperate with regional organizations, particularly with respect to conflict prevention, crisis management, provision of humanitarian assistance and promotion of post-conflict recovery as well as economic development.

10. Particular attention should be given to the African region, where the international community faced the most serious peacekeeping problems. With respect to the African countries themselves, the establishment of the African Union Peace and Security Council would advance cooperation with the United Nations. Lastly, the mechanisms created in accordance with Security Council resolution 1353 (2001), including consultations between the Security Council, the Secretariat and the troop-contributing countries, must be strengthened to take account of the interests of those countries and involve them in the decision-making processes directly related to the situation of their troops carrying out peacekeeping activities in the field.

11. **Mr. Al-Qabandi** (Kuwait) said that his delegation associated itself with the statement made by the representative of Morocco on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries. Peacekeeping operations conducted in various regions were extremely important for reducing tension and defusing crises. Peacekeeping operations were becoming multifunctional, and their mandates included the provision of humanitarian assistance, preservation of law and order by civilian police forces, election monitoring, demining and many other kinds of activities. The implementation of such operations required the firm commitment of Member States to ensuring collective security.

12. His delegation noted in particular several factors crucial to effective peacekeeping operations. First, there must be a clear definition of the mandate of the operations and procedures for use of troops. Secondly, there was a need to ensure closer coordination between the Security Council and the troop-contributing countries and to find ways and means of strengthening that coordination to cover all stages of peacekeeping activity. Thirdly, the work of the United Nations in the area of preventive diplomacy and conflict early warning must be strengthened. Fourthly, attention must be given to compliance with Article 17 of the Charter to ensure that Member States paid their assessed contributions for peacekeeping operations on time.

13. Kuwait welcomed the cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations in peacekeeping activities and hoped that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations would continue its efforts to streamline the United Nations Standby Arrangements System so that it could react more effectively to threats to peace and security. His Government supported the activities of the United Nations concerning Iraq and, in that connection, was providing multilateral assistance for the implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions. His delegation hoped that the efforts of the Government of Iraq would put an end to terrorist activities in that country, which were claiming many victims. Kuwait supported Security Council resolution 1546 (2004) and hoped that elections would take place in Iraq by the deadline of January 2005. Kuwait intended to continue giving assistance to the Iraqi people during the complex transitional stage so that

Iraq could become a fully fledged member of the international community. Kuwait had quadrupled its contribution to peacekeeping activities, as it believed that adequate resources were needed to carry out successful peacekeeping operations. Kuwait hoped that all Member States would pay their assessments on time and in full. In 2003 Kuwait had acceded to the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel, considering that everything possible must be done to ensure the security and safety of United Nations personnel, including military, civilian, police, local and other personnel. The delegation of Kuwait wished to express its gratitude to the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations for its efforts to enhance the effectiveness of United Nations peacekeeping operations. He also stressed his Government's full support for the conclusions reached in the report of that Committee.

14. **Ms. Walker** (Jamaica) said that her delegation acknowledged the important role of DPKO in peacekeeping operations. Continuing and new conflicts had resulted in a surge in peacekeeping operations, some of which were complex and multidimensional. The implementation of those operations called for ever-increasing amounts of human, financial and logistical resources. Her delegation was grateful to the Under-Secretary-General for his extensive and useful account of the challenges facing his Department. It associated itself with the statement made by the representative of Morocco on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

15. The increasing number of conflicts underscored the continued relevance of peacekeeping. Current peacekeeping operations were also engaging in peacebuilding activities in order to sustain the peace more effectively. That situation begged the question which task the international community should tackle first: building the necessary social and economic institutions to minimize the possibility of conflict or bolstering a military response to prevent a conflict from spreading. It was preferable to give increased attention to the sustained economic development of countries prone to conflict, but peacekeeping operations must include peacebuilding dimensions in order to avoid conflicts or prevent them from spreading. There must be a clear distinction between those two areas of activity, for each peacekeeping operation should have a well-thought-out and viable exit strategy. Where peacebuilding was concerned, duplication of effort by the various entities of the United Nations system must be avoided.

16. Her delegation welcomed the multidimensional nature of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti and the inclusion in its mandate of the task of assisting with the construction and consolidation of functioning democratic institutions, re-establishing the rule of law, and promoting social and economic development. The Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti, the reactivation of which had recently been approved by the Economic and Social Council, should be involved in the peacebuilding efforts in that country.

17. In the current year Jamaica had been able to make a modest contribution to peacekeeping by assigning 10 civilian police officers to the United Nations Mission in Liberia. It should be noted that eight of those 10 officers were women. The officers were currently training new recruits to the Liberian police. Her delegation had listened with interest to the Under-Secretary-General's recommendation concerning the establishment of a law-enforcement institution to support and bolster the rule of law. If established, such an institution would be staffed by specialist police officers and civilians. Her delegation requested in that regard that consideration should be given in the recruitment of personnel for the institution to ways in which States with only limited capacity could also participate in peacekeeping operations involving civilian police.

18. The Department was to be commended for its efforts to mainstream the gender perspective in peacekeeping operations, including the filling of the requested posts and production of useful documents. The appointment of the new gender adviser in August 2004 was welcome in that connection. It would also be useful if the Department included, in the context of its training seminars for permanent missions, additional information on the work done on gender issues. It should also include in its review of the implementation of the Brahimi recommendations, to be conducted in 2005, an account of the lessons learned with regard to the mainstreaming of gender issues in the implementation of peacekeeping operations. In conclusion, her delegation reaffirmed the importance of United Nations peacekeeping activities and the urgent need to give special attention to the safety of its peacekeepers.

19. **Mr. Al-Otmi** (Yemen) said that his delegation noted the fundamental challenges and problems confronting DPKO described by the Under-Secretary-General in his informative introductory statement. It associated itself with the statement made by the representative of Morocco on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

20. The raison d'être of the United Nations was of course the maintenance of international peace and security. Since peace and international security were indisputable preconditions of progress and development, Member States must work together to prevent conflicts. The Under-Secretary-General had noted in his statement the shortcomings of United Nations peacekeeping and had called on the countries which were not yet involved to join in and make their contributions. The Organization's peacekeeping must have a universal basis. His delegation also drew attention to the Brahimi report, which set out the main directions of United Nations peacekeeping in the future. Yemen was well aware that all countries must participate in peacekeeping if it was to be neutral and universal. It had provided troops for the peacekeeping operations in Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire and intended to continue to take part in peacekeeping operations together with other countries.

21. **Mr. Rana** (Nepal) said that his delegation associated itself with the statement made by the representative of Morocco on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement. Despite the many reforms in the methods of preparing and conducting peacekeeping operations, the United Nations was once again at a crossroads. The Organization was currently carrying out 16 peacekeeping operations in various parts of the world and had to face complex and hazardous challenges. Nepal had been a consistent contributor to peacekeeping operations since 1958. By the end of November 2004, the number of Nepalese peacekeepers would stand at 3,300. In view of the surge in the demand for peacekeeping missions, the United Nations standby arrangements system should be reinforced; Nepal was prepared to make available up to 3,500 troops at a time under the standby arrangements.

22. The consultations between the United Nations and the troop-contributing countries should be institutionalized in order to create an enabling environment for peacekeeping operations. Financial and logistical constraints made participation by such countries as Nepal difficult. Under those circumstances, the only option was for the United Nations to offer such countries assistance to make good their equipment shortfalls. The strategic deployment stocks must be increased in order to sustain the numerous operations. With regard to the Organization's policy of treating all its staff members equally, the troop-contributing countries should be allowed to exercise their right to serve in managerial capacities. The initiatives taken by Member States to control and manage conflicts warranted support, for such initiatives reduced the need for direct intervention. Lasting peace could be achieved only by removing the root causes of conflicts, such as poverty.

23. **Mr. Zhang** Yishan (China) said that the expansion of United Nations peacekeeping operations would help to reinforce its authority and enhance collective security and compliance with the principle of multilateralism. The reforms carried out in that area had produced substantial results, as a result of which peacekeeping missions had acquired a multidimensional character. The problem now was to bridge the gap between the increasing demand for peacekeeping operations and the peacekeeping capability of the United Nations. That problem could be solved only if all the Member States kept in mind the need to sustain global and regional peace and stability and furnished to peacekeeping operations, in good time and in sufficient volume, the political and financial support and the personnel to create the conditions for rapid deployment and provide a durable basis for the fulfilment by the Organization of its peacekeeping functions. It was also necessary to formulate a deployment strategy for all missions ahead of time.

24. Given the current circumstances, it was essential to pursue the reform and improvement of United Nations peacekeeping operations on the basis of the following conditions. Firstly, it was essential to comply unswervingly with the purposes and principles of the United Nations, to be guided by the decisions of the Security Council, to respect the views of the stakeholders, and to observe strict neutrality, using force only when absolutely necessary. Secondly, it was essential to search actively for ways of boosting the effectiveness of peacekeeping operations and enhancing their results. Since such operations had recently increased in scale and complexity, their preparation should include the formulation of clear strategies and meticulous plans. Thirdly, regional

organizations should be more closely involved in peacekeeping operations, with their efforts complementing peacekeeping by the United Nations, especially in Africa. Fourthly, the work of strengthening the internal security and coordination system must be continued, and effective preventive measures for the safety and security of United Nations personnel must be introduced. China took an active part in United Nations peacekeeping and would continue to serve the cause of world peace to the extent that its resources and capabilities allowed.

25. **Mr. Maleki** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that his delegation associated itself with the statement made by the representative of Morocco on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement. International peace and security could best be maintained by respecting the principles of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of all States and by non-intervention in matters falling essentially under domestic jurisdiction. United Nations peacekeeping operations were not a substitute for permanent solutions or for the removal of the root causes of conflicts. However, there was a need to improve further the Organization's rapid deployment capabilities. Cooperation with regional organizations should be seen as a complement to rather than a substitute for the central role of the United Nations.

26. There was a need for further improvement in geographical distribution and in the representation of unrepresented Member States in the recruitment of DPKO staff. Improvement was also needed in the Department's systems for monitoring and reporting all cases of misconduct in peacekeeping missions. The world situation demanded from all the Member States a commitment to and support for peacekeeping. His country was ready to participate actively in all efforts to maintain peace and security in the world. As a new troop contributor, it believed that training was becoming an increasingly critical component of peacekeeping operations. In that connection, the Handbook on United Nations Multidimensional Peacekeeping Operations should be published, for it might be used for training purposes.

27. **Ms. Bahemuka** (Kenya) said that, with regard to peacekeeping activities, her delegation would like to recall Kenya's promotion of the peace processes in the Sudan and Somalia and its participation in a number of peacekeeping missions. For its part, the African Union envisaged the establishment by 2010 of an African standby force consisting of standby brigades in each of the five subregions of Africa. That regional concept did not mean in any way that the United Nations would be subcontracting peacekeeping missions to regional and subregional organizations. On the contrary, the role of the regional forces would be to support the efforts of the United Nations. It would be necessary to create a centralized system to manage all the contributions by the African partners.

28. The selection of mission leaders, in particular force commanders, deputy force commanders and chiefs of staff, was an important matter. As far as possible, those posts should be reserved for countries contributing sizeable contingents in any specific mission. A connected issue was the secondment of military officers to DPKO. Regrettably, certain troop-contributing countries had not been adequately accommodated in that regard. Her delegation was also in favour of increasing the number of women deployed in peacekeeping operations and recruited to the DPKO Headquarters staff.

29. There was no disputing the importance of the strategy of mission-specific pre-deployment training or of the need to support the regional and national training centres. Kenya would continue to back the Organization's efforts by offering the services of its Peace-Support Training Centre to all delegations. Issues of the safety and security of the personnel must be given utmost priority. Unfortunate incidents involving peacekeepers must be investigated thoroughly in order to prevent their recurrence. Bereaved families must be informed promptly, and questions of compensation for death or injury should be considered favourably and without undue delay.

30. **Mr. Chaliha** (India) said that his delegation associated itself with the statement made by the representative of Morocco on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement. A robust military presence was essential during the initial stages of any peacekeeping operation in order to deter spoilers and establish the credibility of the United Nations. His delegation supported that new muscular or robust approach to peacekeeping and considered that the maintenance of international peace and security constituted a continuum from conflict prevention to peacebuilding. But peacebuilding should not be confused with peacekeeping. Peacekeeping was a short-term activity designed to solve specific problems, while post-conflict peacebuilding was for the longer term and should be left to the agencies, funds and programmes

of the United Nations system; in the final analysis, peacebuilding activities must be locally owned.

31. The establishment of the rule of law had a central place in post-conflict peacebuilding. There was indisputably a need to eschew a one-size-fits-all approach and imposition of foreign models which did not take into account a society's specific social and cultural characteristics. The United Nations should restrict itself to a supportive and facilitating role without seeking to impose outside values or views on the delicate process of establishing the rule of law. The trend in recent years for the Organization to use regional arrangements in its peacekeeping activities did not release the Security Council from its primary responsibility under the Charter for the maintenance of international peace and security.

32. The concept of rapid deployment had enjoyed somewhat limited success in practice. The Organization's efforts to solve emerging peacekeeping problems must be preceded by a thorough discussion in the appropriate intergovernmental forums, in particular the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, and by the adoption of decisions on mutually beneficial terms. The safety and security of the personnel was an area of critical concern and must be taken into account at all stages of the work of a peacekeeping mission, from planning to contingency response. The best insurance against the risks was a properly planned and mandated mission. Missions must have well trained, equipped and disciplined troop contingents which were not deployed in isolation from the political processes. India was a firm believer in trilateral cooperation between the troop-contributing countries, the Security Council and the Secretariat and called for its intensification.

33. **Mr. Ruiz Rosas** (Peru) said that peacekeeping operations continued to occupy a leading place in the work of the United Nations. However, their mandate and structure had changed and were becoming more multidimensional, and their military capability had increased. Efforts were currently being made to boost the civilian component essential to the fulfilment of a mission's political and social mandate. Isolation, poverty and marginalization were the main reasons for the emergence of conflicts. It was essential for peacekeeping missions to carry out multidimensional programmes for the consolidation of the State in question. The peaceful settlement of a conflict was impossible without constant efforts on the part of the international community.

34. Rapid deployment was a fundamental condition for the success of a peacekeeping operation. Peru reiterated its proposal that States should make available to the United Nations, on a voluntary basis, without conditions and in accordance with a pre-determined mandate, properly trained troops ready for operational deployment.

35. Like other developing countries, Peru participated in peacekeeping operations in spite of its problems, in particular its financial ones. Consideration should be given in that connection to the creation of a mechanism for making timely payments to meet the deployment costs of troop contingents from developing countries. Peru would also like training measures to be introduced. Such measures would enhance the effectiveness of field activities and ensure that the various contingents operated in accordance with uniform standards.

36. **Mr. López** (Cuba) said the guiding principles of peacekeeping operations were agreement of the parties, impartiality, non-use of force except in legitimate self-defence, clearly defined mandates, and guaranteed financing; those principles must be strictly observed.

37. An urgent need to render assistance to millions of people could not be used as a pretext for the introduction of dubious concepts which ran counter to the rules of international law and undermined respect for the sovereignty of States. Under the Charter, the means available to the United Nations for dealing with conflicts were not limited to the broad powers of the Security Council but included action by the General Assembly itself, where there was no place for global or regional hegemony, where the outmoded right of veto did not exist and where all States had the right to vote.

38. The United Nations must create vigorous mechanisms for ensuring that, once a decision to carry out a peacekeeping operation had been taken, the operation was deployed on the ground as quickly as possible. The deployment process must be conducted transparently in accordance with the principles embodied in Articles 100 and 101 of the Charter.

39. The tardy reimbursement of the personnel and equipment costs of troop-contributing countries was a source of concern. It could cause serious economic difficulties, especially for developing countries.

Peacekeeping operations could not deliver the final settlement of conflicts, which were usually due to economic, political and social causes; a final settlement required that those causes should be removed. The persistence of the double standards and discriminatory criteria applied by the Security Council when it took decisions on the composition and assignment of peacekeeping troops was regrettable. Until that situation was changed, peacekeeping operations could not constitute a genuine instrument of conflict resolution.

40. **Mr. Mavroyiannis** (Cyprus) said that his delegation fully endorsed the statement made by the representative of the Netherlands on behalf of the European Union. His Government had welcomed the adoption of Security Council resolution 1568 (2004) extending the mandate of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) for a further six-month period and endorsing the Secretary-General's recommendations, contained in his report (S/2004/756), concerning the amendment of the concept of operations and the reduction of the Force by about 30 per cent. Those recommendations, including the new concept of operations, had been based on a professional, objective and detailed assessment of the situation by the competent DPKO services in the light of the changes which had taken place over the past 12 years and with the aim of securing more efficient and rational use of human and financial resources. Such action was of paramount importance in view of the shortfall in peacekeeping resources caused by the recent substantial increase in the demand for the services of peacekeepers. His Government had also taken note of the Secretary-General's assessment that the changes did not entail any significant operational risk.

41. The adverse effects of the events of 1974 remained, notwithstanding the positive impact of the partial lifting of restrictions on movement across the Green Line in April 2003 and the huge potential for further improvement of the overall climate following the accession of the Republic of Cyprus to the European Union in May 2004. The violation of the military status quo in Strovilia persisted, and the restrictions on freedom of movement imposed by the Turkish and Turkish Cypriot forces continued to hinder the operations of UNFICYP. As long as that anomalous situation persisted, the potential threat to security would remain; that would necessitate the continuation of the mandate of the United Nations peacekeeping operation in Cyprus. The security situation on the island was gradually improving, and it was of the utmost importance to safeguard and sustain that progress if future efforts to resolve the Cyprus problem were to be successful. UNFICYP had an important role to play in that regard.

42. His delegation firmly believed that, in the current circumstances and under its new concept of operations, UNFICYP would focus on both peacekeeping and peacebuilding, acting as the main United Nations interlocutor with both sides on the island, participating fully in demining operations in the buffer zone and encouraging any initiatives to bring about reconciliation and create conditions conducive to the resumption of efforts to resolve the Cyprus problem. Confidence-building measures were of paramount importance in that regard.

43. **Mr. Rampangilei** (Indonesia) said that his delegation wished to associate itself with the statement made by the representative of Morocco on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement. He emphasized the importance of honouring the memory of United Nations personnel who had given their lives for the cause of peace. Recently, there had been a surge in the number of peacekeeping missions, while peacekeeping was becoming increasingly multidimensional, complex and expensive. Consequently, the traditional approach to peacekeeping was no longer viable. Success could be assured only through a robust peacekeeping presence, which required adequate resources, including highly qualified personnel. In that connection, he stressed the role of adequate, targeted training, which could be provided through the United Nations train-the-trainer programme or by troop-contributing countries. That would spread the cost of training peacekeepers, while developing a pool of potential peacekeepers around the world.

44. One way of meeting the increasing demand for peacekeeping would be equal and fair burden-sharing between developed and developing countries, without which peacekeeping could not continue to be viable and effective. Strengthening coordination and cooperation between United Nations peacekeeping operations and regional arrangements could help to manage the upsurge in United Nations peacekeeping activities. In that regard, he drew attention to the declaration of the Association of South-East Asian Nations concerning its intention to establish by 2020 a

security community that would, inter alia, assist new United Nations peacekeeping operations in the region.

45. His delegation wished to stress the compelling need to enhance the safety and security of mission staff. It agreed wholeheartedly that it was essential to review the measures to enhance the safety and security of unarmed civilian personnel deployed in peacekeeping operations. If the safety of unarmed civilian peacekeepers could not be guaranteed, it would become increasingly difficult to find appropriate personnel for peacekeeping operations.

46. He drew attention to the importance of relations between civilian and military personnel in peacekeeping operations. While it was vital for them to have a common understanding of the mission's goals and objectives, it was no less important that each peacekeeper should be sensitized to the need to observe the peacekeeper's code of conduct. Regarding integration, his delegation believed that the key to success in peacekeeping was to take account of the diverse needs of the population. It was important for the entire United Nations system to work together as one in any given peacekeeping situation so as to ensure the best and most realistic work plan and the most effective use of limited resources.

47. The United Nations must continue to strengthen and enhance collective efforts both at Headquarters and in the field. Cooperation among United Nations funds, programmes and agencies, as well as with other relevant bodies and international organizations, was essential. In addition, measures must be taken to address the imbalance between activities funded through assessed contributions and those funded through voluntary contributions. His delegation believed that the readiness of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to work with Member States and other partners, including within the Economic and Social Council, would ensure the viability of the integration of peacebuilding in the overall peacekeeping strategy.

48. The need for peacekeeping arose because of conflict and instability. Consequently, the ultimate objective must be to accelerate the development process. In order to do that, it was necessary to focus, in the first instance, on the root causes of conflict in the world. The development of a rapid reimbursement policy remained a pressing matter, and something must be done to enable troop contributors facing budgetary constraints to meet rapid deployment timelines. Lastly, his delegation wished to reiterate that peacekeeping operations must be implemented in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and basic peacekeeping principles.

49. **Mr. Gatan** (Philippines) said that his delegation supported the recommendations and conclusions contained in the report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations. Demand for United Nations peacekeeping had risen steadily in recent years, particularly in Africa. The participation of Philippine military and police personnel in United Nations peacekeeping missions in the countries of that region demonstrated the commitment of the Philippines to United Nations peacekeeping and peacebuilding.

50. He stressed that, owing to the need for rapid deployment, troop-contributing countries must prepare their personnel for United Nations missions well ahead of time. In that regard, there was a need for substantive and meaningful consultations between the Security Council, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and troop contributors on all areas of actual and potential cooperation with the Department. New mechanisms were required to ensure that troop-contributing countries were informed of new developments and potential mandates at an early stage, so that they could take timely and effective decisions regarding their participation in field operations when the need arose.

51. His delegation believed that coordination of mission planning and training could be further improved. With regard to training, it welcomed the emphasis placed by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations on the establishment of national and regional training centres and support for bilateral and regional training arrangements among troop-contributing countries. The Philippine armed forces had set up a peacekeeping operations centre to train and form standby units for deployment to United Nations peacekeeping operations.

52. Mission planning should include the preparation of rotation schedules, which must then be adhered to. Downsizing of national contingents must be planned ahead of time so as to simplify the exit of contingents from peacekeeping mission areas. Force headquarters should be staffed, whenever possible, by nationals of countries that did not have any political or economic interest in the specific conflict.

53. His delegation was gravely concerned about threats to the safety and security of United Nations military and civilian personnel. Ensuring their protection was essential to enhance the Organization's credibility. His delegation placed high priority on the safety and security of United Nations and associated personnel. In that regard, it wished to urge the development of a clear set of guidelines to alert and protect civilian and military personnel as a matter of urgency.

54. There had been a surge in demand for peacekeeping, and the scale of peacekeeping operations continued to increase. However, the best way for the United Nations to respond to conflicts was to spot them before they occurred. Peacekeeping was costly. In maintaining international peace and security, conflict prevention should be given particular attention; that required good intelligence.

55. **Mr. Hannesson** (Iceland) said that his delegation concurred with the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations that increasing demand for peacekeeping was one of the few predictable facts of United Nations business; that that demand could not be met by the United Nations alone or by any other regional or subregional organization; and that the complexity of the post-conflict transitional period meant that peacekeeping operations must increasingly involve peacebuilding, as well as peacekeeping. Consequently, the United Nations must draw to an ever greater extent on the resources and experience of other organizations in strate gic partnerships.

56. Iceland's high per capita financial contributions to both the United Nations regular budget and the assessed budget for peacekeeping operations were a clear demonstration of its commitment to United Nations peacekeeping. In addition, Iceland had recently increased its activities in the field of peacekeeping operations with the establishment of the Icelandic Crisis Response Unit. The Unit's staff were participating in a number of peacekeeping missions in the Balkans, in Kabul and in Sri Lanka.

57. The Unit took part in election observation missions, mainly in cooperation with OSCE. In addition, it was the official liaison with the International Rescue Team in Reykjavik, a specialized unit affiliated with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in Geneva.

58. The security of peacekeeping personnel was of paramount concern, and appropriate measures must be taken to ensure their safety. His delegation strongly condemned vicious attacks on peacekeepers. In that connection, he expressed condolences on behalf of his Government to the families of those killed in the recent terrorist act in Kabul.

59. His delegation supported the observations and policy recommendations made by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations. It also wished to associate itself with the statement made by the representative of the Netherlands on behalf of the European Union.

60. **Mr. Rubukawaqa** (Fiji) said that the United Nations and Member States were faced with increasingly serious and complex challenges as they stepped up their peacekeeping activities. In that regard, his Government attached great importance to peacekeeping for the maintenance of international peace and security and affirmed its unwavering commitment to policies to accomplish peacekeeping.

61. A multilateral approach was needed to address the increased level of challenges and complexities arising from new peacekeeping missions. The United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) was one such mission and required a holistic approach and the cooperation of all Member States. His Government's decision to participate in UNAMI, despite the challenges and complexities involved, was based on its support for the work of the United Nations and was a response to the call by Iraq for the maintenance of international peace and security.

62. United Nations peacekeeping missions must retain their multilateral focus as the Organization broadened and enhanced its peacekeeping capacities. In particular, there must be procedures and systems in place to involve developing countries, which had much to contribute with respect to tackling the challenges confronting peacekeeping missions.

63. His delegation reiterated its call to the United Nations to promote effective peacekeeping partnerships and cooperation and was grateful to the Department of Peacekeeping Operations for its efforts to establish a financial support mechanism to help troop-contributing countries that might need assistance. The establishment of a triangular cooperation mechanism would greatly enhance the participation of developing countries in peacekeeping.

64. Recent events were a powerful reminder of the need to take every possible step to guarantee the safety and security of United Nations personnel and peacekeepers. Concerning integration, his Government fully supported the call for all United Nations agencies and organs to cooperate and ensure the effective provision of services and to avoid duplication. It also fully supported the call for effective and open recruitment procedures and the review of United Nations terms and conditions of service for civilian staff to ensure the recruitment and retention of qualified personnel. In addition to professional qualifications, geographical representation, gender balance and the inclusion of nationals of developing countries were factors that should be considered with respect to civilian staff appointments by the Secretariat.

65. Adequate resources were needed to conduct any operation, including peacekeeping operations. All missions must be results-oriented, which required regular reviews to ensure that activities were cost effective. But, above all, Member States must provide the necessary resources to enable the United Nations to attain its objectives.

66. **Mr. Kryzhanivsky** (Ukraine) said that given the sharp surge in demand for United Nations peacekeeping operations, which was likely to continue to grow in the near future, the Security Council, Member States and the Secretariat must work closely to meet the significant challenges facing them. For more than four years his Government had been among the major contributors of military contingents to United Nations peacekeeping operations and was the largest troop-contributing country in Europe. Ukraine was not only contributing troops and civilian police but was also providing airlift capacities and helicopters and other equipment, and would remain a reliable partner of the United Nations in that area.

67. Further development of partnerships with regional and subregional organizations would help the United Nations to meet the new challenges of conducting peacekeeping operations, and his Government encouraged the Secretariat to continue its efforts to enhance such cooperation with those organizations. Of equal importance was the provision by the international community of assistance to regional organizations, particularly the African Union, to strengthen their peacekeeping capacities.

68. His Government was deeply concerned about the increasing danger to peacekeepers and it supported efforts to improve information-gathering and analysis in the field to prevent threats to peacekeeping personnel. It therefore welcomed the introduction of Joint Mission Analysis Cells in peacekeeping missions. As one of the initiators of the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel, his Government fully supported the efforts to strengthen its legal regime. It advocated universal application of the Convention, called for strict compliance with it by Member States and invited the international community to mark the tenth anniversary of the adoption of that important international legal instrument.

69. Rapid deployment was an essential element of peacekeeping operations. However, the United Nations was still far from meeting the objective of deployment within 30 to 90 days. His delegation urged the Secretariat to continue to work with Member States to enable the relevant mechanisms, including the strategic deployment stocks and United Nations Standby Arrangements System, to operate effectively. It also encouraged the Secretariat to assess the effectiveness of the System and to optimize the strategic deployment stocks in the light of lessons learned from the latest deployments.

70. At the same time, new options in that area could be explored. His delegation noted, in particular, the proposal by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations to provide for pre-trained and equipped units, to be kept in reserve prior to deployment under the command of Member States, for rapid deployment in peacekeeping operations when needed. However, it should be borne in mind that, even if Member States agreed to hold such units on standby, their actual deployment would be subject to national legislation. His delegation sought further clarification on how that concept was related to the rapid deployment level of the United Nations Standby Arrangements System, and pointed to the need to elaborate the proper financial mechanisms to implement the concept.

71. **Mr. Koné** (Mali) said that peacekeeping operations had initially involved the deployment of military contingents under United Nations command to settle international armed conflicts. The concept of such operations had since changed significantly, reflecting developments that had occurred in modern

warfare and that the United Nations must address. Besides international conflicts, there was an unprecedented upsurge of internal conflicts and civil wars that caused suffering to civilian populations and threatened international peace and security. Peacekeeping forces were currently often called on to pacify parties fighting in the territory of one and the same State and also to carry out police functions to restore law and order in States needing such assistance.

72. A significant number of peacekeeping operations conducted by the United Nations and also by subregional and regional organizations took place in Africa. The demand for United Nations peacekeeping clearly exceeded the Organization's financial capacities. In order to reduce the burden on the United Nations, there was a need to enhance the peacekeeping capacities of subregional organizations. In that regard, his delegation welcomed the fact that the majority of United Nations operations in western Africa, for example, had been preceded by advance parties from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). However, despite the political will of African States and subregional organizations, they did not always have the necessary logistical resources and required assistance from the international community.

73. His country was actively involved in United Nations peacekeeping operations both in Africa and elsewhere. Malian peacekeepers were currently taking part in operations in Liberia, Sierra Leone, the Congo, the Central African Republic, Burundi, Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea-Bissau and Haiti. In many instances, the involvement of contingents from Mali in various operations had strained its national budget. In addition, there was a peacekeeping training centre in Mali where peacekeepers from other countries were trained, and the Ministry of Defence had recently inaugurated a peacekeeping documentation centre. In that connection, he affirmed his country's readiness to provide every kind of support for the work of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. He noted, however, that developing countries must be given the necessary logistical support in order to increase their participation in peacekeeping operations, and his delegation welcomed the willingness of several developed countries to take steps to strengthen the peacekeeping capacities of developing countries.

74. **Ms. Antonijević** (Serbia and Montenegro) said that it had come to be understood over the past several years that peacekeeping operations created a basis for long-term and sustainable peace and that peacebuilding components were important for their success. A surge in peacekeeping operations with increasingly complex mandates and including peacebuilding components had resulted from the awareness of those realities. Substantial experience had been gained and significant progress made, but there were many persisting shortcomings which needed to be corrected. The recommendations of the Brahimi Panel had played a crucial role in changing the approaches to the conception, planning and execution of peacekeeping operations and peacebuilding measures; it was now necessary to take stock of the successes and failures of complex peacekeeping operations.

75. Serbia and Montenegro had consistently reiterated the importance of establishing the rule of law in post-conflict societies. Indeed, there could be no sustainable peace without the rule of law. Serious attention must continue to be given to the further strengthening of that aspect of complex peacekeeping operations. An appropriate rule-of-law component should be included in mandates, as appropriate. There was also a need for the Security Council to formulate the mandates clearly in order to preclude any ambiguities which might undermine the credibility and success of the operations. Much remained to be done by way of improvement of the capacity of peacekeeping operations to discharge their responsibilities with regard to the rule of law and to enhance the system-wide coordination of cooperation with outside entities. Her delegation looked forward to acquainting itself with the proposals of the Executive Committee on Peace and Security on that subject announced in the Secretary-General's recent report to the Security Council on justice and the rule of law.

76. The Secretary-General stressed in that report that it was essential for all strategies and activities aimed at establishing the rule of law to be based on the principle of the substantive participation of all the national constituencies. However, broad public participation in those processes was possible only if the people's security needs were met. Unfortunately, in some such cases the Organization had been unable to provide the necessary security conditions for the re-establishment of the rule of law. Kosovo and Metohija provided one example: five years after its deployment, the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) had failed to provide security for all the

inhabitants of the province. The non-Albanian population of Kosovo and Metohija had been subjected to ethnically motivated attacks and denied freedom of movement and other basic human rights. Moreover, as noted in numerous reports on the human rights situation in Kosovo and Metohija, it was precisely because of the lack of security that only a token number of displaced persons had returned to the province, while the prospects for the return of a quarter of a million of such persons remained bleak. In such a situation, when one part of the population, namely Serbs and other non-Albanian ethnic groups, was literally struggling to survive and a significant proportion of the population remained displaced and had virtually no hope of returning in the near future, it was hard to envisage that all the constituencies would be able to participate in the political processes in the province aimed at building a multi-ethnic and multi-cultural society.

77. Serbia and Montenegro had repeatedly stated that the early deployment of a sufficient number of experienced and qualified civilian police officers and judicial and correctional personnel was essential to the success of the peacekeepers' efforts to re-establish the rule of law and that such personnel should remain on the ground for as long as the circumstances warranted their presence. The example of Kosovo and Metohija showed that the delay in deploying a rule-of-law component in UNMIK, the premature scaling-down of the civilian police component, and the continuing shortage of international judges and prosecutors had resulted inter alia in the creation of a culture of impunity in which ethnically motivated violence flourished.

78. **Ms. Bolaños-Pérez** (Guatemala) said that the surge in the number, scale and complexity of the challenges confronting peacekeeping forces in various countries and regions prompted the question whether the United Nations had the necessary managerial capacity, financial resources, troops and political will to implement peacekeeping measures. The improved awareness of the risks to which peacekeeping personnel were exposed was complicating the situation even further.

79. If the United Nations carried out all the envisaged operations, Guatemala's financial contribution to the conduct of the operations would not be substantially different from its contribution to the regular budget. Guatemala was convinced that its contribution would help to reinforce peace throughout the world, something of benefit to all countries. That was why in November 2003 it had signed a memorandum of understanding with the United Nations on standby arrangements. Peacekeeping operations made a big contribution to the attainment of national interests. Guatemala intended to increase its participation in the international activities.

80. There was a wealth of knowledge acquired from the experience of the many complex operations carried over the past 15 years, from the recommendations contained in the Brahimi report, and from the specific steps taken to implement those recommendations, in particular by DPKO. And useful operational links had been established between the United Nations and regional arrangements.

81. There was no doubt that much remained to be done. The Department must continue to build up its capacity to provide efficient and effective responses to the existing demands. The financial resources allocated to peacekeeping operations were a very good investment, for it was obvious that maintaining peace and preventing conflicts cost less than war. The most important task in enhancing the peacekeeping role of the United Nations was to convince the Governments of the Member States to give their full support to that work.

82. **Mr. Mustafa** (Sudan) said that his delegation associated itself with the statement made by the representative of Morocco on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement. It reaffirmed the important role played by the United Nations in the maintenance of international peace and security and noted the progress made by DPKO in the planning, follow-up and promotion of efforts to meet humanitarian and security needs. Peacekeeping operations facilitated dispute settlement and détente throughout the world, especially in Africa. The causes of most African conflicts were to be found in resource shortages, unbalanced development and widespread poverty. The international community must adopt a comprehensive approach to the search for ways of settling conflicts and disputes.

83. The question of effective collaboration and coordination between the United Nations and regional and subregional peacekeeping arrangements remained an important priority. Most of the troop contributors were developing countries, which lacked the financial resources and other means to provide personnel

training. There was a need to strengthen the capacity of the African countries to carry out peacekeeping operations in terms of training, financing, planning, and rapid deployment. It was essential for such operations to be conducted in accordance with their mandates and with the general peacekeeping principles and guidelines, as well as with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

84. His delegation drew attention to the close cooperation and continuing consultations between the United Nations and the Government of the Sudan in preparation for the United Nations mission in the Sudan. The working groups of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Political Affairs had done their duty with due efficiency and professionalism. A comprehensive peace agreement would shortly be achieved in the Sudan: it was essential for the United Nations and the international community to assist with the establishment of peace and support the Sudan in its aspiration for sustainable development.

85. **Mr. Tin** (Myanmar) said that his delegation associated itself with the statement made by the representative of Morocco on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement. It was a matter for concern that, according to the Secretary-General's report on peacekeeping operations, there would be a further increase in the near future in the already unprecedented number of such operations. Peacekeeping operations must be conducted in strict compliance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, in particular the principle of respect for national sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence, and the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of States. Compliance with such fundamental principles as the consent of the parties, impartiality, and non-use of force except in self-defence, and clearly defined mandates and objectives and secure financing were also essential to the success of peacekeeping operations. In that regard his delegation endorsed the view of the Non-Aligned Movement that United Nations peacekeeping was an important tool for the maintenance of international peace and security but could not be seen as a substitute for permanent settlement of disputes and could not eliminate the root causes of conflicts. Peacekeeping must be regarded as a temporary measure aimed at facilitating the observance of ceasefire agreements or agreements on the cessation of hostilities.

86. His delegation also fully endorsed the view that the Security Council bore the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security and for the explicit definition of peacebuilding components before their incorporation in peacekeeping mandates. Prior consideration should also be given to the formulation of appropriate exit strategies in order to ensure a smooth transition to lasting peace and security after the peacekeepers' withdrawal. The deterioration in the security situation in many of the regions where peacekeeping operations were in place was extremely worrying, and the surging demand for such operations had prompted increases in the assessed contributions of all States to the peacekeeping budget. Myanmar had always tried its best to fulfil its obligations with respect to the financing of peacekeeping operations, but the developing countries were shouldering an ever-increasing burden in terms of the provision of troop contingents: the ten largest contributors of troops to United Nations operations were developing countries.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.